

Australian owned Australian produced

Wild

AUSTRALIA'S WILDERNESS ADVENTURE MAGAZINE.

TRACK NOTES

Brisbane's
Scenic Rim

Lerderderg
Gorge

www.wild.com.au

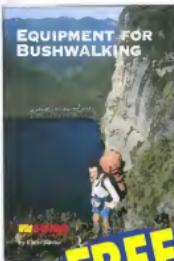
ISSN 1030-469X



0.1

Postage Approved #3-208/0000

Summer
(Jan-Mar) 2003, no. 87
\$7.99* incl GST



FREE!
INSIDE

GEAR SURVEYS

Sleeping-bags
Water purifiers

BUSHWALKING

Climbing the
highest peak
in each State.

Freycinet:
fun walking

Greater Blue
Mountains

Vanishing Falls

Wilsons Prom

Snowboarder
deaths:
the findings

Photo: Didier Chessel



places rather be

Gear for you'd

www.mountaindesigns.com

BRISBANE • FORTITUDE VALLEY • SYDNEY • JARRY • AMHNALE • BATHURST • CHATSWOOD • KATONDA • NEWCASTLE • WAGGA WAGGA • CANBERRA • MELBOURNE • CULINGWOOD • GEELONG • HUMPHRIES • TAKALIMON • HORNET BAYNE • DEDMOND LAUNCESTON • PRETTE • UNNUKU • CLARENCEPORT • FRITHMAN



Bibbulmun
Fjelde
Globetrotter
Main Range
Columbus
Tramp
Equator

Why our Snugpak sleeping bags are unique

1. World wide seller.

We've been making Europe's top-selling, synthetic sleeping bags for over 20 years. We sell more bags than the entire sales of all sleeping bags in Australia. So there must be something we're doing that's right.

4. Yes, you can wash it!

But unlike down, you can even machine wash it. And exposing the inside, darker, heat-absorbing fabric to the sun dries a wet bag in a matter of minutes.

6. No heat loss.

Other sleeping bags have to be quilted in order to keep the fill in place. Quilting or stitching squashes the fill, creates cold spots and reduces the bag's thermal performance.

Snugpak's unique 'profiled' fill is stable and does not need quilting to keep it in place.



8. Other quality features.

The best anti-snag YKK zip system. Zip baffle to prevent heat loss along zip area. Liner fastening tabs. Choice of left- or right-hand zips enables two bags to form a double. Generous 150 cm chest and 220 cm length.

11. Large selection.

The best-selling model for average Australian outdoors temperatures is 'Merlin Softie 3' priced well under \$400. But if you require a warmer bag, there are 10 other Snugpak models available in Australia.

2. Breathable liners. No sweat.

We use world-renowned Pertex™ breathable liners. All other synthetic bags sold in Australia are lined with ordinary non-breathable fabrics. Result? Sweat can't escape and you end up in a damp bag!

3. Filling like down.

Our filling, developed in Switzerland and unique to Snugpak, is soft like down and belies its man-made origin. But it is non-allergenic and can keep you warm even when wet.

We call it 'Softie'.

5. Light weight. Packs small.

The Snugpak 'Merlin Softie 3' weighs approx 800g, packs down to the size of a football and, unless you're a very cold sleeper, can keep you snug and warm at close to 0°C.

7. Space-age barrier.

Snugpak's 'Merlin Softie 3' bag has a breathable 'ReflectaTherm' barrier (derived from aerospace technology) which reflects 15% more body heat back into the bag without any noticeable weight increase.

9. Made in UK.

Let's not kid anyone. Snugpak bags use only the best materials to produce the best thermal performance bags for serious outdoor adventurers. You cannot compare cheap Asian-produced bags with the UK-made Snugpak range.

12. Ideal for travel.

Snugpak bags come with stuff bags and compression straps, so when travelling you can compress the bag by about one-third, thus saving valuable packing space.

10. Bags for -50°C!

If your travels take you to temperatures colder than those found in Australia, Snugpak have bags to keep you warm even at an extreme -50°C!

13. Our motto.

Working with the best people and the best materials to produce the best products.

Available from leading outdoors adventure shops that believe in new technology.

For your nearest stockist and a free illustrated catalogue contact the Australian distributors, Macson Trading Company Pty Ltd. Tel (03) 9489 9766. Fax (03) 9481 5368. Email: info@macson.com.au www.macson.com.au

Beware of cheaper imitations made from non-breathable fabrics!

Departments

5 Editorial

Wild Gear Surveys examined

9 Wildfire

Letters to the Editor

15 Info



Australians blitz World Rogaining Championships

19 Wild Diary

What's on, and when

44 Folio



Tasmanian moods,
by Angus Munro

WildGUIDE
YOUR BUSH POCKET-PARTNER

Equipment for Bushwalking,
by Chris Baxter

Wild
WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT

Established 1981

Summer
(Jan-Mar)
2003,
issue 87
\$7.99*

* Maximum Australian recommended
retail price only

50 Track Notes



Cunningham's Gap to Mt Castle,
by John Daly

56 Track Notes



Lerderderg Gorge, by Greg Caire

63 Gear Survey 1



Down sleeping-bags,
by Jim Graham

Cover Lyn Daly,
Barry Ingham and
Ann Hill on the ridge
from Boars Head to
Mt Castle, Main
Range, Queensland.
(See Track Notes on
page 50) John Daly

69 Gear Survey 2



Water filters and purifiers,
by Richard King

72 Water in the Australian bush

Is it safe to drink?
By Stuart Dobbie

75 Equipment

Wristwatch-style GPS



77 Trix

Better gaiter straps,
by Martin Stone

79 Green Pages

Ozone hole closing

83 Reviews

Wild heroes' book

88 Wild Shot

Preparing for a siege

WARNING

The activities covered in
this magazine are dangerous.
Undertaking them without
proper training, experience,
skill, regard to safety, and
equipment could result in
serious injury or death.



Foundation member of



The Outdoors Industry
Giving Back to the Outdoors

Features

22 A Lofty Challenge

Climbing the highest peak in each State, by *Nick and Ben Gough*

27 Death in the Mountains

The snowboarders' tragedy, by *Harley Wright*

30 Searching for Vanishing Falls

Graham Wootton describes a trip to the heart of Tasmania's South-west

36 A Stroll Down the Goulburn

In the greater Blue Mountains, by *Anthony Dunk*

39 Promontory Punishment

The classic Wilsons Promontory circuit in a day, by *Eric Tlozek*

40 Freycinet Fun

The other kind of Tassie walking, by *Peter Franklin*

22



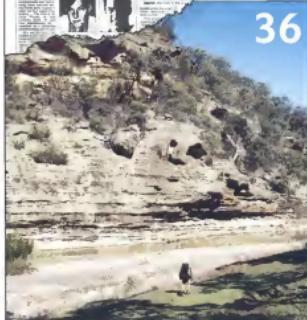
27



Death in an icy tomb



36



30



40



ENGINEERED TO ILLUMINATE YOUR WORLD.



ZIPKA

The Zipka is the little sister of the Tikka. A roll-up strap system replaces the elasticated headband, making it even more compact and lightweight than the Tikka. The Zipka can be carried on the head, the wrist or the ankle. 64 gm (including batteries)



TIKKA

TIKKA, a new generation in headlamp design. LED technology, half the weight and bulk of any conventional headlamp on the market. Broad, bright, white beam has incredible 150 hours of burn time. "So tiny, you can't afford to leave home without it." 70 gm (including batteries)



MICRO

MICRO, small and lightweight with a directable and focusable beam. The MICRO is a great, economical lamp for around the campsite, car, or portaledge. 100 gm.



ZOOM

ZOOM, great for night travel, perfectly balanced with a directable and focusable beam via Petzl's patented rotating bezel. Our all-time best seller. 170 gm.



ZOOM ZORA

ZOOM Zora is a new version of the Zoom, with a 6-volt power supply for a longer burn time. 185 gm.



ZOOM ZORA BELT

A long-lasting light, with an extension lead and battery pack which can be attached to your belt, reducing the weight on your head. 215 gm.



DUO

Double light sources for flexibility, with one standard bulb for economical use, one halogen for route finding. Water resistant and ideal for wet-weather sports, or professional use. 200 gm.



PETZL

Distributed by Spelean P/L. Call 1 800 634 853 for your nearest stockist. <http://www.spelean.com.au> <http://www.petzl.com>

hands
free
lighting[®]

Surveying the surveys

What do you think?

THE LONG-STANDING WILD GEAR SURVEYS, published in all 87 issues, are popular with many readers—with many, but not with all. Some readers believe that *Wild* surveys must somehow be influenced by the insidious power of advertising, no matter what we have done to allay such concerns. At the other extreme are readers irritated because *Wild* surveys don't tell them what they should buy. Then there are the manufacturers, distributors and retailers whose products are surveyed; all of whom are actual or potential *Wild* advertisers. Of course, many understand the importance of editorial independence and integrity in attracting, and holding, readers—their market—but some consider that *Wild* surveys should be 'a service to the industry'. Only a minority hold this view; however, others have expressed concerns. The 'bullet' ratings awarded to various aspects of the products surveyed are the most contentious subject. We have been criticised about their fairness, accuracy and reliability and, consequently, are subjected to pressure to discontinue them. (We did this for a while some years ago but because of strong reader outrage we were obliged to reinstate them!) Some industry figures have complained about factual accuracy in surveys. (The extent of this matter can be gauged from the 'Corrections and amplifications' box in *Wild* Info as we publish all corrections notified to us. We should point out that manufacturers' specifications are sent to them for verification before we publish them.) Dissatisfaction is also expressed by those businesses in the outdoors industry whose products are *not* included in surveys—because they have not been sufficiently widely available. These businesses are frustrated because they haven't the distribution necessary for inclusion, but see *Wild* surveys as an important means to achieving enough reader interest in their products to encourage retailers to stock them. Catch 22. (We have excluded such products partly to keep surveys to a manageable size and partly in response to reader complaints when we survey products that they have difficulty obtaining.) Other businesses have expressed irritation at not being included because they were overlooked, apparently due to their products not being sufficiently widely available to be noticed by surveyors or referees in outdoors shops and our failure to detect the omission. One solution would be for all businesses wishing to have their products considered for inclusion in surveys to advise *Wild* editorial staff of this.

A suggestion we frequently receive is that survey findings—particularly the bullet rat-

ings—be based on the results of 'scientific' testing and that surveys be conducted by teams of reviewers and referees. This sounds reasonable than you consider the practical realities. First, all 'objective' testing entails subjective choices in determining what will be tested; how; and by whom. Secondly, 'objective' tests don't give the full picture of how a product will perform in 'the real world' now, let alone in, say, one or five years time: the fabric in a rain jacket can be tested for waterproofness but the effectiveness of a jacket in keeping the wearer dry also depends on the product's design, its construction, and the conditions under which it is used, such as underneath a heavy rucksack or in thick scrub. Then there are questions about how well laboratory tests for, say, abrasion resistance indicate wear in the bush due to puncturing, snagging, tearing and stress on seams. Thirdly comes the question of cost. 'Scientific' and meaningful testing is beyond the means not only of *Wild*, but of the Australian outdoors industry in general and to the best of our knowledge no such testing is regularly carried out by an outdoors magazine anywhere in the world. Similarly, field testing is beyond the means of Australia's outdoors industry. Finally, the time needed for laboratory testing of all products to be surveyed is beyond what would be available to enable us to publish one survey (let alone two) every season as *Wild* has done for some years.

Given the above limitations and difficulties we have concluded that, despite inevitable imperfections, the form of survey we have adopted—conducted by suitably experienced, informed and independent people—strikes the best balance between 'science' and 'the real world' and is of most value. (See 'Wild Gear Surveys: What they are and what they're not' on page 63.)

While they have been part of the magazine since its foundation 22 years ago, like everything else in *Wild*, Gear Surveys have been subject to constant review and have evolved accordingly. Among significant changes were the introduction of referees and of the 'Buy right' box some years ago. At present Gear Surveys are undergoing their most thorough review ever. You will notice some changes in this issue: the (re)introduction of an explanation in each survey of what surveys *are* and *are not* (mentioned above); we include each manufacturer's Web address so readers can also check manufacturer specifications themselves and obtain more comprehensive and detailed information 'straight from the horse's mouth'; and

surveyors explain in more detail the basis on which their subjective ratings are determined.

Further—and possibly more far-reaching—changes are planned. There is, for example, the vexed question of what brands should be included in surveys. Only those that are 'widely available' or (keeping in mind space limitations) should we cast a wider net (and possibly include an 'availability' column in survey tables)? In recent issues we have sought to compromise by mentioning 'other brands' (with contact details)—some of them extremely good—in the text accompanying survey tables.

This Editorial is a key part of the review process. Its purpose is to air the questions and to invite input from all interested parties—readers, manufacturers, advertisers and surveyors. What do you think of *Wild* Gear Surveys? What are your views on the key point of editorial independence and survey integrity? What changes, if any, would you like to see?

The Wild Environmentalist of the Year Award

It is always a pleasure and a privilege to be able to give credit to those who have made it their life work tirelessly and fearlessly to fight for the preservation of wilderness. This is particularly the case when we can announce the winner of the prestigious \$1000 *Wild* Environmentalist of the Year Award. If that person is a long-standing contributor to environmental education through the pages of *Wild* itself, and a *Wild* Special Adviser, that pleasure and privilege is greatest of all. Past winners have included such environmental luminaries as Jill Redwood, Doug Humann, Bob Burton, Alec Marr and Virginia Young. This year's winner, Geoff Law, meets the above criteria and his name sits well among those mentioned. Well known to *Wild* readers for his informed Green Pages reports over many years, Geoff has also contributed more substantial articles, not only on environmental issues, but also about his own imaginative wilderness experiences both in Australia and further afield. Geoff is known for his outstanding work in protecting Tasmania's wild places that are of such importance to *Wild* readers and is a key member of Greens Senator Bob Brown's staff. In announcing this award we offer Geoff our warmest congratulations and thanks for a job well done. 

Chris Baxter

Wilderness on Water

Sea Kayaking Expeditions

on Bathurst Harbour
and Port Davey
World Heritage Area
Southwest Tasmania.

Roaring 40's Ocean Kayaking

www.roaring40skayaking.com.au
email: rfok@ozemail.com.au
telephone: 1800 653 712

Microlite™ Travel Clothing

Managing Director & Managing Editor

Chris Baxter OAM

Sub-editors Mary Harber, Lucy Monie,
Catherine Devlin

Advertising Emma Webb

Administration Tom Burke

Subscriptions Tony Cox

Accounts Fiona Sanders

Design & production Bruce Godden
Consultants Michael Collie, Brian Walters SC

Contributing Editors

Stephen Bunton *Caving*

John Chapman *Track notes*

Michael Hampton *Cross-country skiing*

Special Advisors

Andrew Cox, Geoff Law,
Roger Lembit, David Noble

Publisher Wild Publications Pty Ltd
ABN 42 006 748 938

Printing York Press Pty Ltd

Colour reproduction Karibu Graphics

Distribution Gordon and Gotch Limited

Subscription rates are currently \$31.95 for one year (four issues), \$58.90 for two years, or \$85.80 for three years, to addresses in Australia. For overseas addresses, the rates are \$56.95, \$110, and \$163, respectively. When moving, advise us immediately of your new address to avoid lost or delayed copies. Please also send your address sheet received with a copy of *Wild*.

Advertising rates are available on request.

Copy deadlines (advertising and editorial):

8 October (summer issue), 15 January (autumn), 15 April (winter), 15 July (spring).

See below for publication dates.

Contributions, preferably well illustrated with slides, are welcome. Guidelines for **Contributors** are available at www.wild.com.au

When sending manuscripts, please enclose a self-addressed envelope. Submissions should be supplied on a three- and a half-inch floppy disk in either PC or Mac format. Please specify which format, program and version number. Hard copy should also be supplied. If not on disk, submissions should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of sheets of A4 paper. Please ensure that submissions are accompanied by an envelope and sufficient postage.

Names and addresses should be written on disks, manuscripts and photos. While every care is taken, no responsibility is accepted for material submitted. Articles represent the views of the authors, and not necessarily those of the publisher.

**Editorial, advertising,
distribution and general
correspondence to:**

Wild Publications Pty Ltd,
PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181, Australia.
Phone (03) 9826 8482
Fax (03) 9826 3787

Email wild@wild.com.au

Web site <http://www.wild.com.au>

Wild is published quarterly in the middle of the month before cover date (cover dates: January–March, April–June, July–September, October–December) by Wild Publications Pty Ltd. The title *Wild* (ISSN 1030-469X) is registered as a trade mark and use of the name is prohibited. All material copyright 2002 Wild Publications Pty Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of the contents of this publication may be reproduced without first obtaining the written consent of the publisher. *Wild* attempts to verify advertising, track notes, route descriptions, maps and other information, but cannot be held responsible for erroneous, incomplete or misleading material.

Wild is printed on Regent paper, which is made of 40 per cent waste that has been recycled and oxygen bleached. The cover has a water-based varnish (not an environmentally detrimental UV or plastic finish).

WORTHWILD

**Professional qualifications for
Outdoor Leaders
recognition of your current skills**

NATIONAL RECOGNISED
TEACHING

We will recognise your current skills as credit towards your qualification (RPL) and assist you to gain any additional skills that you might need to become qualified. We train Outdoor Leaders to the latest National Standard. Get qualified in Abseiling, Rockclimbing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Bushwalking, Navigation, Mountain Biking & Ropes Courses. Plus electives in ATSC, Remote Operations, 4WD & Camp Craft, Instructional skills and Adventure-based counselling.

You'll benefit from our flexible delivery and distance education strategies. Call Worthwild on (07) 3833 4350 or 0413 157 350 or email: info@worthwild.com.au

- Australian made
- Comfortable and cool
- Lightweight
- Extremely quick drying
- Mildew, odour and soil resistant
- Tough and resilient
- Sun protective to 50+

*Chosen by the
Australian Army,
Australia's leading
mining companies
and the Australian
Fly Fishing Team*

*Available in men's and
women's sizes from leading
specialist outdoors stores.*



*Clothing for the
Outdoor Enthusiast*

*email. sales@wildernesswear.com.au
ph: 03 9416 7211
fax: 03 9416 7255*

CAN YOU DO IT FOR 48 HOURS?

Oxfam Trailwalker

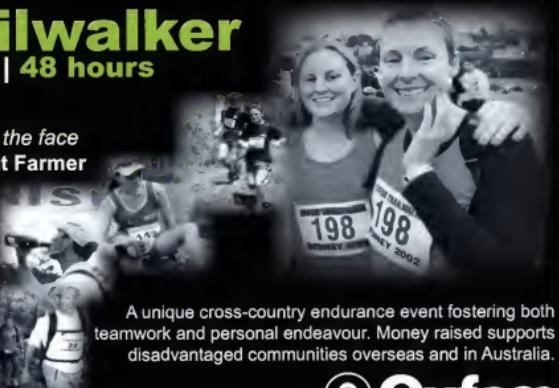
100kms | Teams of 4 | 48 hours

"Trailwalker is the greatest race on the face of the earth. It is life changing." Pat Farmer

Melbourne 2003
April 4 | 5 | 6

Melbourne to Marysville

call 03 9289 9486
www.caa.org.au/trailwalker



A unique cross-country endurance event fostering both teamwork and personal endeavour. Money raised supports disadvantaged communities overseas and in Australia.

⑧ **Oxfam**
Community Aid Abroad

cigana mountain wear
Snowy Mountains Australia

whatever road you choose to travel

technical performance
that fits your lifestyle

one decision is easy

232 - 240 Sharp Street
Cooma NSW Australia
Tel 02 6452 5417 Fax 02 6452 5412
Email cigana@snowy.net.au
Internet www.cigana.com.au

Cigana

 Teva

GUIDE WRAPTOR

2000 FREESTYLE WORLD

CHAMP AND 2001 SILVER MEDALIST

ERIC SOUTHWICK PROVES THAT

FOR THE WORLD'S BEST

PADDLERS, EVEN THE

PADDLE IS OPTIONAL

GO.DOBÉ IS HOW WE THRIVE

**THE ORIGINAL SPORT SANDAL.
THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR.**

THRIVE

www.teva.com

Stockist details call:

(03) 9427 9422 Australia

(09) 373 1460 New Zealand

Buck passing and bull

The real hazards of our high country

JUST THOUGHT I MIGHT SEND YOU SOME info...to warn people about having their vehicles damaged in the Alpine National Park. Last March my car was parked in the car park at Pretty Valley (near Falls Creek, Victoria).

While there I observed Hereford cattle moving around the car park—and my car. On closer inspection I found that the cattle had been rubbing their horns against car mirrors, denting panels. The cost to repair the damage was \$1500 and I had to pay \$450 excess. I contacted Parks Victoria in Bright who then put me on to the grazier who holds the lease, a Mr Max Blair. He did not own the cattle although they were on his licensed area.

I then wrote to the Minister for the Environment, Sherryl Garbutt, who referred me back to Parks Victoria, Bright. They in turn referred the matter to their insurer who wrote back to me to say that, while they sympathise, it would set a precedent if they made a gratuitous payment to me.

The car park is very popular with bushwalkers and I think people should be made aware of the possibility of their vehicles being damaged. Apparently I am the first person to make a complaint. I suspect that this is because I witnessed the cattle damaging my vehicle. Most people would not notice the damage until later and by then not realise what had happened.

I will continue to pursue this matter through the government and try to inform as many people as possible of the risk of vehicle damage by cattle in the Alpine National Park (another reason cattle should not be there).

Ian Harwood
(by email)

the ongoing forest 'campaigns' (supported by *Wild*) that promote resource insecurity and discourage value-adding investment.

For Victorians, the real choice is either to accept the Regional Forest Agreement compromise which conserves more than 85 per cent of our forests while permitting sustainable hardwood timber production from the

Today, most of Australia's native forest cut is wood-chipped for export. The figures are startling—95 per cent of the logs cut in the Eden region of New South Wales is export wood-chipped, 90 per cent in Tasmania, 80–90 per cent in Victoria's East Gippsland and 90 per cent in the Otways. History repeats itself. Through planting



remaining areas (Department of Natural Resources & Environment statistics); or to live and work in situations dominated by plantation pine and imported hardwoods.

Mark Poynter
Alphington, Vic

Australia's plantations are the foresters' leg. In the 1960s they lobbied governments to plant enough softwood trees to meet half Australia's expected sawn timber requirements in 2000, leaving the other half for native forest sawmills. As it turned out—35 years later—the foresters grossly overestimated Australia's sawn timber needs. Our sawn timber consumption could be fully met from softwood plantations alone. Native-forest sawn timber is losing in the inevitable market battle unwittingly set up by the foresters. Plantation products compete against virtually all native-forest sawn timber uses, even against many of the relatively minor products (in wood volume terms) listed by Poynter.

The closure of our native forest timber industry would result in increased imports of tropical hardwoods, which are already being used for many of these applications. Judy's claim that Victoria's hardwood industry has failed to move into these markets is both debatable and ironic in view of

eucalypts, we now have a major competitor to native-forest export wood-chipping.

Australia is in the enviable position of having a sufficiently large softwood and hardwood plantation estate that can not only meet virtually all our domestic timber needs but also completely substitute for native-forest wood-chipping. How do you want your timber needs met and what future do you want for native forests? Let's have the debate the RFA process never allowed.

Judy Clark
Postdoctoral Fellow
Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies
Australian National University
Canberra, ACT

What about wood-chipping?

Judy Clark's assertion that Australia can choose not to log its native forests (*Wild* no 86) is based on the premise that plantation softwood timber is a preferred substitute for native forest hardwood in all applications.

However, hardwood is stronger and more durable and attractive and so is likely to continue to be preferred for uses such as feature flooring, stair treads, kitchen cupboards and benches, high-quality furniture, high-strength beams, window joinery, outdoor applications and certain packaging applications where strength is important.

The closure of our native forest timber industry would result in increased imports of tropical hardwoods, which are already being used for many of these applications.

Judy's claim that Victoria's hardwood industry has failed to move into these markets is both debatable and ironic in view of

Photographic fraud

I am enjoying reading your magazine and look forward to renewing my subscription when the time comes. Congratulations on

Lexan® Wine Glass & Flute



GSI Lexan® Wine Glasses & Flutes are the perfect addition for your next camping trip or picnic. The patent-pending design unscrews at the midpoint of the stem, so the base can be compactly snapped into the bowl for packing and storage. Super lightweight and nearly indestructible, yet elegantly shaped.

Bugaboo™ Teflon®/Aluminium Cook-sets



Aluminium Bugaboo™ cook-sets are light and the Teflon interior coating makes cleaning a breeze! The sets nest compactly and the lids act as fry pans.

DiamondBack Gripper™ and mesh storage-bag included.

Glacier Stainless Steel™ Cook-sets

Glacier Stainless Steel™ cook-sets are finely crafted culinary pieces for the practising gourmet and are crafted from 18/8 stainless steel. The mirror-bright finish looks great! All pieces have rounded corners for easy cleaning. The sets nest compactly and the lids act as fry pans. DiamondBack gripper and mesh storage-bag included. The five- and seven-piece sets include a bonus nylon mini-spatula.

Espresso...



Treat yourself to an absolutely delicious espresso with these compact little appliances! They are crafted from rugged yet lightweight aluminium. Simply fill the basket with well-ground coffee, add water to valve level and screw the unit shut. Place it on your stove at low heat and within minutes, the steam pipe delivers a flavourful cup of European-style brew. Available in one- and four-cup sizes: red, blue, green or black.

Or if you prefer to brew great coffee regardless of where you are, try the new Lexan® JavaPress™!

Perfect for camping, backpacking, boats, caravans and car camping, just add boiling water to coffee grounds, let stand for a minute or two and you will have a perfect cup of fresh coffee. The GSI JavaPress is dishwasher safe and can also be used for preparing tea! Available in two sizes: 280 ml and 925 ml.

Lexan®: Lightweight, but Tough!

LEXAN® is the toughest thermo-plastic available - with high impact strength, dimensional stability and temperature performance from -55°C to +100°C.

It's dishwasher- and microwave safe and incredibly lightweight. You can make a complete, convenient setting from our range of two bowls, large plate and knife, fork, spoon and teaspoon.

And they won't burn your fingers! Colours: cutlery - Eggshell or Emerald (blue), plates and bowls - Smoke or Emerald. Cutlery is available in bulk, or in three- or four-piece sets.



Lexan® Waterproof Utility Boxes



LEXAN® Waterproof Utility Boxes are nearly indestructible, and available in three sizes. They are clear, so you can see what's inside, and have attachment loops to tie them down securely!



Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd
Ph 1800 634 853
e-mail giant@spelean.com.au <http://www.spelean.com.au>

The Boxit Dolphin mobile phone case protects your phone from moisture, dust and dirt.

You can dial and talk without removing your phone from the protective case, so even wet and dirty bands will not damage your phone.

**Boxit®
MOBILE PHONE CASE**

Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd. Ph. (02) 9966 9800
In New Zealand Ph 03 434 9535
e-mail boxit@spelean.com.au www.spelean.com.au

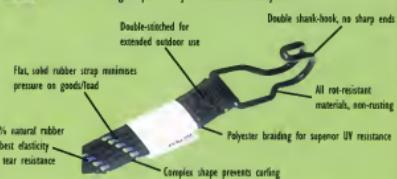
ROK Straps



ROK Straps' range of elastic cargo fasteners are perfect for mountain bikes, 4x4s, trailers, caravanning, boating and roof racks - anywhere an item needs securing. With a range of 'tailored-length' straps to choose from, you'll find exactly what you're looking for.

All straps come complete with double shank-hooks for double the strength, no sharp ends, plastic coated and non scratch. All hooks are sewn in for added security. The tight-knit polyester braiding gives the straps extra UV protection and all-weather tolerance. And naturally, all of the straps are made with 100% rot-resistant materials, so they'll go the distance.

So, say farewell to unsightly bungee straps. Say goodbye and good riddance to hazardous shock-cords. The ROK Straps range will altogether change your perception about securing cargo. Strong, durable, stylish and safe, these straps will become an integral part of your outdoor lifestyle.



Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd. Ph. (02) 9966 9800
Fax (02) 9966 9811 e-mail rokstraps@spelean.com.au www.spelean.com.au

If you visit the Top End only once in your life...

Make it May

It's magical



May is when the nights turn cool and the last rains finish.

Water is everywhere.

The waterfalls for which the Top End is famous look like they do in the tourist brochures. In a few months they will have begun to disappear. Many 4WD tracks remain closed so you can enjoy places like Jim Jim Falls without the day tourists who arrive in June. Places which become too dry to visit later in the year are still accessible.

Our May trips are all designed to run at a leisurely pace to allow you to enjoy the best that Nature has to offer at this time of year.

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St
Millner NT 0810 Email: walkabout@ais.net.au

Phone: 08 8985 2134 Fax: 08 8985 2355



Ezidri™

HIGH SPEED DRIERS

EAT LIKE A KING AWAY FROM YOUR CASTLE.

Make your own great tasting, inexpensive dried meals for your next outdoor adventure with Australia's fastest and most powerful food dehydrators!

Dry your favourite recipes then simply add water, heat and enjoy!

Dried food is light and compact. The Ezidri Snackmaker dries up to 15 trays at once and is perfect for fruits, vegetables, meat, soups and casseroles.

3 models available: Classic \$149, Snackmaker \$199, Ultra FD1000 \$369 (rrp)

FREECALL 1800 671 109

Contact us for more information, a free bush recipe booklet, a brochure or your nearest stockist.

Hillmark Industries Pty Ltd: 664 South Road, Glandore SA 5037

www.hillmark.com.au

SNACKMAKER
\$199
rec. retail



the landscape photos in the issues I have seen (the last five). They appear to reflect reality...I haven't noticed much use of the telescopic photo in your publication, which is good. Perhaps the only exception is page 29 of *Wild* no 86 where there is a somewhat telescoped photo of the Snowy Mountains from the Cobberas No 2. The foreground, to a varying extent, looks 'squashed' in these photos.

Telescopic pictures have good uses, like zooming in on something inaccessible, but to create the image of mountains towering over something is fraudulent...and disappointing when you actually arrive at the place. No one ever discusses this as photographic fraud; photos are never labelled as telescopic. I have seen ridiculous postcards such as Seattle looking as though it would be hit by an avalanche from Mt Rainier! It's a puzzle to me why this visual fraud is allowed in publications. I'm sure [that] with the right camera and setting myself up on a high place at Watsons Bay I could make the Blue Mountains look as though they are towering over the Sydney CBD. Keep up the good work and keep an eye out for those 'fake' photos from contributors.

Dennis O'Hara
(by email)

Coppery tales

Ever since reading in *Wild* no 78 of a 61-year-old obstetrician's ascent of Federation Peak I have decided to plan for my own journey to stand at least in the vicinity of the peak on Australia Day 2004...I so thoroughly enjoyed Rosie Johnson's article [*Actually, it was written by her father, Doug!* Managing Editor] about the experience with her sister, her mountain goat dad, Doug, and herself that I'd like to throw in a subscription to *Wild* to anyone who would like to come along for the trip in January 2004...My husband is an old Kenyan copper with lots of coppery tales published but lots more to tell, so whoever takes up this challenge will not be without some amusement and definitely not bored...

Angela Wild
Bunbury, WA

Our mate Bunty

Congratulations on the Order of Australia. I believe it was long overdue. I'm honoured to be part of what has become a respected historical record of recreation and achievement in the outdoors, conservation issues and even the technological history contained in advertisements and reviews...not to mention the quality writing and photography which support it. Well done!

Stephen Bunton
(by email)

Readers' letters are welcome (with sender's full name and address for verification). A selection will be published in this column. Letters of less than 200 words are more likely to be printed. Write to *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181 or email wild@wild.com.au

MEINDL

We've categorised our shoes and boots to help you make the right selection:

D



ALPINE

C



MOUNTAINEERING/
SUB ALPINE

BC



ULTIMATE
TREKKING

B



CLASSIC
BUSHWALKING/
HIKING

AB



GENTLE
BUSHWALKING/
CASUAL

A



CITY WALKING/
TRAVELLING

The ultimate high-mountain boot, absolutely reliable for extreme use in rugged terrain. (Suitable for crampons.)



Mt Crack Pro

The high-mountain boot with stability for alpine trekking on rock, rock-faces, scree and glaciers. (Suitable for crampons.)



Makalu

Meindl's trekking boot for ambitious trekking, easy and moderate alpine use and fixed-rope routes. (Suitable for crampons.)



Island Pro

Meindl's classic walking boot for extensive walking and moderate trekking.



Burma



MTH Magic



MTH Magna

For a brochure and details of your local stockist, please contact:

STAGER SPORT AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

Tel (03) 9529 2954 Fax (03) 9510 0954 Email meindlau@stagersport.com www.meindlboots.au.com/www.meindl.de

CLOTHING

you won't suffer melt down with

Drymax-lite™

cool
when it's hot

warm
when it's cold

dry
when you sweat



A lightweight fabric with a three-dimensional knit using a special polyester fibre designed to wick moisture away quickly.

SLEEPING BAGS



4 seasons rating – 3 models
High Country 900
High Country 700
Huntechlite 580



Nylon draw-string carry-bag
Compression waterproof dry-bag
Mesh storage-bag



BACK-PACKS

Quantum 70 lt
Magnum 90 lt
"the basis of a comfortable pack is its harness"



HUNTECH Outdoor Clothing Systems (made in NZ)

Now available in Australia. For a brochure contact J Wade on (03) 9529 2954

TAMRON



TELEPHOTO

PORTRAITS

The only lens you will ever need.

NEW 28-300mm AF ULTRA ZOOM XR

AF28-300mm ULTRA ZOOM XR F/3.5-6.3 LD AD ASPHERICAL [IF] MACRO

The new Tamron AF28-300mm XR lens is astounding in both size and performance, ensuring it remains the favourite choice of enthusiast and travel photographers who want it all.

AMAZING SIZE

- Reduced lens diameter to just 62mm
- Only 83.7mm long
- Weighs only 420 grams
- World's smallest lens in its class

AMAZING VERSATILITY

- Wide angle through to super telephoto
- Improved mechanical construction
- 9 blade diaphragm for soft portrait background effects

AMAZING MACRO

- Minimum focusing distance of 49cm over the entire zoom range
- 1:2.4 magnification at 300mm

Photos by John Swainston using Tamron 28-300mm XR lens



WIDE
ANGLE

4757AC

Enquiries: 1300 366 499 www.maxwell.com.au

MACRO

L.E.D. technology comes to life



AURORA

- Unique triangular L.E.D. configuration
- Three brightness levels
- Two flashing modes
- Weighs less than 85 grams
- Up to 150 hours burn time



MATRIX

- L.E.D. power with constant output converter
- Easily converts from L.E.D. to high-output incandescent bulb (included)
- Waterproof
- Up to 40 hours burn time with L.E.D.s



SWITCHBACK

- Combines L.E.D. and incandescent lighting in one unit
- 300+ hours burn time with L.E.D.s
- Two independent power supplies
 - 2 x AA head-set
 - 4 x C-cell removable battery pack
- Three levels of brightness
- Waterproof



IMPACT

- Unique optical lens system that shines for over 150 metres
- 150+ hours burn time
- Shock- and impact-resistant L.E.D.
- Waterproof



ATTITUDE

- Three high-output L.E.D.s
- 150+ hours burn time
- Shock- and impact-resistant L.E.D.s
- Waterproof



Distributed by Outdoor Agencies Pty Ltd
Call (02) 9438 2266 for your free brochure
or nearest stockist
sales@outdooragencies.com.au
www.princtontec.com



LIFETIME WARRANTY

MADE IN USA

Czech mate

Australia has retained its unbeaten record in the fifth world rogaining championships at Lesna in the west of the Czech Republic. Defending champions Australian David Rowlands and New Zealander Greg Barbour scored 4140 points to defeat the Czech pair Petr Boravek and Miroslav Seidl (4040 points). The win takes Rowlands' impressive record to three world titles and nine Australian titles. Overall women's winners were Australians Kay Haarsma and Julie Quinn (2460 points).

The event was held in boggy forest and farmland on the German/Czech border. The weather was overcast, so the full moon provided little benefit. One compensation for competitors were the wild raspberries, strawberries and blueberries growing on the course. The course is historically interesting as it is on the edge of the former Iron Curtain and border control and sentry posts were at several points.

A sign of the growth of the sport since its inception in Australia in 1976 is that 182 teams competed from 21 countries. A contingent of 56 entrants travelled from Australia. The next world championships will be in Arizona, USA, in 2004. Organisers await an assessment of recent forest fires in the area to determine whether the event will have to be relocated.

John Gavens and Heather Leslie

Scenes from the World Rogaining Championships 2002. Top left, David Rowlands, left, and Greg Barbour, overall winners. Top right, Leigh Privett, left, and Rob Taylor, men's super veterans winners. Right, Privett 'the morning after'. All photos John Gavens and Heather Leslie



Australian Capital Territory brings home the bacon

A team from the ACT encountered wild pigs and rugged conditions on its way to a maiden win in the interstate section at the Australian Rogaining Championships in Namadgi National Park, ACT, on 27–28 April. During the Championships briefings competitors were warned to look out for wild pigs, pig shooters, pig dogs and wild dogs.

Overall winners were defending Australian champion Nigel Aylott and Victorian champion Kevin Humphrey (3260 points). Second and only ten points be-

hind were veterans Robert Vincent (Australian champion in 2000) and David Rowlands (current world champion and six times Australian champion). Third for the third year in a row were Richie Robinson (Queensland) and Mike Hotchkis (New South Wales), the Australian champion in 2000, with 3120 points.

The women's section was the battle of the sisters. Susanne Cassanova and Heather Smith won with 2530 points. Second were Susanne's sister Jenny Cassanova and Alex Tyson (2440 points) and third, the sister

team of Cora and Jenny Wolswinkel (2170 points).

For the third year running, the super-veteran trio from New Zealand—Bill Kennedy, Peter Squires and Anne Kennedy—won both the mixed veteran and super-veteran categories with 2260 points. Overall all mixed winners were Tom Landon-Smith and Alina McMaster (2880 points). Second were Graham Turner and Pam James (2470 points) and third, Andrew and Nicole Haigh with 2420 points.

JG and HL

2002/2003

• Instruction Courses • Guided Ascents • Alpine Touring

New winter and summer courses

For a brochure, or this season's full info, contact us or check out the website.

Alpine Guides (Aoraki) Ltd
Bowen Drive (PO Box 20)
Mount Cook 8770
New Zealand
Email: mtcook@alpineguides.co.nz
Phone: 0011 64 3 4351834

www.alpineguides.co.nz



Alpine Guides

Leading New Zealand guiding for more than 30 years

where are you?



The answer to this question could save your life or the lives of others. While there is no substitute for good planning or common sense, the adventurer with a personal EPIRB and GPS will always know their position and have the ability to call for help in a genuine emergency.



Vista



Summit



eTrex



MT310

eTrex GPS

- 12 channel GPS receiver
- 500 way-points
- Automatic track log
- Navigate reversible route
- Trip computer
- Sunrise and sunset times

Summit GPS

- All eTrex features plus:
- 20 reversible routes
- Flexigate compass
- Barometric altimeter

MT310 EPIRB

- Cospas/Sarsat compatible
- 121.5/437 MHz operation
- 48-hour min transmission time
- Test and operate beeper/flasher
- CASA and AS/NZ standards
- Australian designed and made

Vista GPS

- All eTrex/Summit features plus:
- Digital base-map
- 24 Mb internal memory
- Enhanced LCD resolution

www.gme.net.au

SYDNEY (02) 9844 6666
BRISBANE (07) 3278 6444
PERTH (08) 9455 5744

MELBOURNE (03) 9590 9333
ADELAIDE (08) 8234 2633
AUCKLAND (09) 274 0955

Exclusive GARMIN Australasian Distributor:



GARMIN

GME

Electrophone

Photographic licence?

A contributor has reported to *Wild* that he was contacted by the Central Coast branch of the New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Service with regard to photo licensing. The NPWS finalised its Regulation 2002 in September and the document has been posted on its Web site (www.npws.nsw.gov.au). Apparently the NPWS is now enforcing section 20 of the Regulation which pertains to the right to publish photos depicting National Parks in NSW—those who do so as a 'commercial activity' will require a licence. It seems that bushwalkers who take photos and sell them occasionally are exempt from the definition of 'commercial activity'.

As we went to press in late October we learned of an even more Draconian and alarming development in some NSW and south-east Queensland National Parks, including the most popular: bushwalkers, including day walkers, were banned from entering the most popular parks until after the summer on account of the 'fire hazard' they pose to forests!

Trailwalker 2003

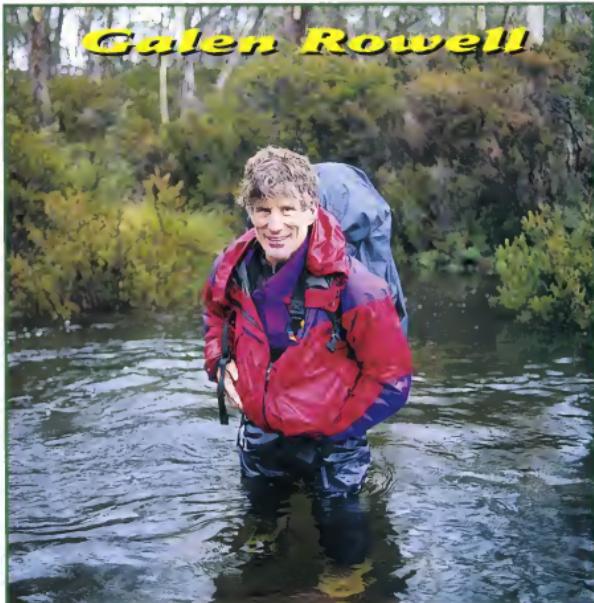
Oxfam Trailwalker is an endurance event in which teams of four attempt to walk a 100 kilometre cross-country route in 48 hours. It is a unique event that fosters teamwork



Competitors in the 2001 Oxfam Trailwalker, NSW. Oxfam

and personal endeavour. Trailwalker is not a relay event—team members complete the 100 kilometres together.

In Melbourne, Oxfam Trailwalker will be held annually at the beginning of April.



Galen Rowell, Pine Valley, Tasmania, in September 1996. Grant Dixon

American photographer and mountaineer Galen Rowell died in a light plane crash near his home in California, USA, on 11 August. He was 62. Also killed were his wife Barbara and two friends.

Rowell was one of the world's pre-eminent wilderness photographers and received the Ansell Adams Award in 1984. He became a full-time photographer in 1972, and his first *National Geographic* cover story (on climbing at Yosemite) was published a year later. His photographs and writings have appeared in 18 books and countless magazine articles since then.

Rowell took part on some 40 expeditions, numerous climbs and undertook many photo assignments throughout the world. He was a master at what he termed participatory photography, where the photographer is not merely an observer but an active part of the image. He

applied this philosophy to his best landscape images, which feature a convergence of light and form he called 'dynamic landscapes'.

Australians nowadays are no strangers to the use of wilderness photography to support and promote environmental and other causes. Rowell had actively and successfully sought to use his photographs in this manner for many years. He also had a particular passion for the plight of Tibet and his images have contributed to the ongoing Tibetan human rights campaign. Rowell's extensive transparency collection will continue to be managed as a commercial library so, while the man will be sadly missed, for many years to come his images will no doubt continue to support and promote the causes in which he believed.

Grant Dixon

Melbourne Trailwalker 2003 will begin at the Ferny Creek Primary School. It passes north through the Dandenong Ranges National Park, east along the Warburton Trail, then north again over the top of Mt Donna Buang in the Yarra Ranges National Park. The route passes through Marysville State Forest and finishes in Gallipoli Park Recreation Reserve in Marysville.

Oxfam Trailwalker is a fund-raising activity organised by Oxfam Community Aid Abroad. Money raised supports Oxfam Com-

munity Aid Abroad's development and relief programmes among disadvantaged communities in 30 overseas countries and Indigenous Australia. For more information, phone (03) 9289 9444 or email trailwalker@melbourne.caa.org.au

Grande Randonnée

On an overcast day in May, straight off the plane from Melbourne, I began a trek of



Telstra Mobile CDMA. The mobile network for people who really are mobile.

Getting away from it all doesn't need to extend to your mobile network. Telstra Mobile's digital CDMA network covers double the total area of any GSM network in Australia, making it the essential network cross town and cross country. If you demand great coverage across Australia, choose the Telstra Mobile CDMA network.

Call us anytime on 125 111. Go with the network that offers you more.



Telstra's CDMA network coverage does not extend to all areas. Coverage of cellular services is inherently uncertain and should not be relied upon for emergency communications in remote locations. ABN 33 051 775 556.

SOH TMN 2964

BUSHWALKING MAPS



Land and
Property
Information

Don't wander off aimlessly. Get a map from Land and Property Information and you won't lose your cool in the bush.



Topographic Maps are great for any activity: walking, XC skiing, canoeing, camping, climbing or simply driving. No matter what you want to do or where you want to go, we've got you covered.

Topographic maps are ready for use with GPS.

Our maps can be obtained from many newsagents and bookshops, camping outlets, National Parks & Wildlife Service, or direct from Land and Property Information.

For further information, and your free 'Catalogue of NSW Maps', write to Land and Property Information, PO Box 143, Bathurst, NSW 2795, or phone (02) 6332 8124, fax (02) 6332 8299. Send \$2.00 for a copy of the CMA Map Reading Guide.

Name.....

.....

Address.....

.....

When conditions are extreme you need durable equipment. Carry Laken as your first choice.

LAKEN the bottle

futura Cap with aluminum karabiner

Grant Minervini Agencies
1800 882 058
info@gmagents.com.au

about 850 kilometres across the Pyrenees, the mountain range that divides France and Spain. I climbed about 45 000 metres up and down in every sort of weather, raised nearly \$30 000 for charity and saw some of the most spectacular, unspoilt mountain scenery in Europe. My route took me along some of the famous French Grande Randonnée tracks as well as along lesser-known goat tracks and at times off the track. I wandered through remote villages, picked my way across magnificent waterfalls, stumbled through waist-deep snow and sweated up barren, boulder-strewn moorscapes below towering limestone cliffs.

I met relatively few people (I didn't meet any bears or Basque separatists) along the way. I almost tripped over a couple of sodden Irishmen hiding under bracken in a lightning storm, which was a rare treat. The locals were without exception generous and good natured—even after France was knocked out of the World Cup! I finished on Bastille Day (14 July) feeling self-confident, motivated and inspired. 

Nick Palmer



Wild Diary
Wild Diary listings provide information about rucksack-sports events and instruction courses run by non-commercial organisations. Send items for publication to the Managing Editor, Wild, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.

December

26-31 Red Cross Murray Vic/NSW (03) 8327 7706 Marathon C

January

2-7 Under Way—the 24th Biennial Conference of the Australian Speleological Federation WA (08) 9470 3023

Activities: C canoeing

Corrections and amplifications

The article 'The Tallest Trees' in Wild no 86 should have been attributed to Bernie Mace, not just Brian Walters.

The Gear Survey of bushwalking boots in Wild no 86 included two errors regarding the upper material of Garmont boots in its table: for the Flash Gore-Tex is a combination of synthetic material and leather; for the Syncro it is leather.

The reference to the Picton valley in the Green Pages item 'Underground secrets' in Wild no 86 should have been to the Huon valley.

Readers' contributions to this department, including high-resolution digital photos on CD, not by email or colour slides, are welcome. Typed items of less than 200 words are more likely to be published. Send them to Wild, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181 or email wild@wild.com.au

Subscribe to *Wild*



PHONE:
(03) 9826 8483
or
ONLINE:
www.wild.com.au

You can also SUBSCRIBE BY

EMAIL or **MAIL** or by **FAX**—see opposite

- **SAVE** up to \$10
- **FREE** home delivery
- **PROTECTION** against price increases
- Get your copy **FIRST**

plus
FREE STUFF!

- **FREE WildGUIDE** of your choice
- **FREE Wild back issue** of your choice
when you subscribe for three years



3 years	\$85.80	SAVE \$10.05 (\$163 overseas—airmail)
2 years	\$58.90	SAVE \$5.00 (\$110 overseas—airmail)
1 year	\$31.95	(\$56.95 overseas—airmail)

All offers apply to **new and renewing subscribers** and must be **requested when paying for your order**.

Wild is published each March, June, September and December. Subscriptions start with the **next issue**. Allow up to 12 weeks for delivery of your first copy.

All offers and prices valid for the duration of the cover date of this issue. For current prices and offers see www.wild.com.au All Australian prices include GST.

Wild THINGS

HOW TO ORDER

Wild Back Issues

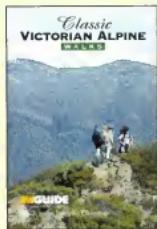
\$7.99 ea (\$13.25 overseas—airmail)

SPECIAL! Any 5 for

only \$30 (Australia only)

For details of contents of each Wild issue, visit
www.wild.com.au/wild/wildback.htm

Issue nos available: 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 29, 31,
32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 42, 53, 55, 57,
65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76,
77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86.



WILDGUIDES YOUR BUSH POCKET-PARTNERS

\$8.20 ea (\$8.50 overseas—airmail)

Alternative Tasmanian Walks GRT

Blue Mountains Canyons GRC

Blue Mountains Walks GRCW

Classic New South Wales Walks GNSW

Classic Tasmanian World Heritage Walks GTHW

Classic Victorian Alpine Walks GCAV

Cooking for the Bush GCB

Equipment for Bushwalking GEB

Getting Started GCS

Peak Bagging Walks GPPB

Waterfalls Walks GWT

White-water Paddling
in Victoria GWPV

Wild Posters 420 x 297 mm

Laminated \$15.20 ea

(\$18.55 overseas—airmail)

Cape Woolamai

The Viking



Wild Binders

\$19.95 ea (\$23.95 overseas—airmail)

Holds eight magazines
+ index



Wild Indexes

\$7.75 ea SPECIAL!

1981–83 1988–89 Any 3

1984–85 1990–91

1986–87 1992–93 for
 (Not available for
 subsequent issues) \$10

Clear Plastic Covers for WildGUIDES and RockGUIDES

\$2.30 ea (\$2.90 overseas—airmail)

Photocopies of Wild/Rock Articles

\$7.99/article (\$8.55 overseas—airmail)

Phone us

(03) 9826 8483

(Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa)

Online

www.wild.com.au

(Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa)

In writing

FAX: (03) 9826 3787

(Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa)

EMAIL: wild@wild.com.au

(Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa)

MAIL:

Wild, Reply Paid 415

Wild Publications Pty Ltd

PO Box 415

Prahran Vic 3181

(No postage stamp required)

(Credit card, cheque or money order)

To order in writing

1 List what you want

2 Determine the total cost

3 Advise us of your credit card details: (Minimum credit card order \$10)

- Type of card
(Bankcard, MasterCard, Visa)

- Card number

- Card expiry date

- Card holder's name
(please print)

- Signature (for faxed or
mailed orders)

- Date

OR

Enclose cheque or money
order (to Wild Publications Pty Ltd)

4 Provide the name, address,
postcode and phone number—
for delivery of order.

A Lofty Challenge

Climbing the highest peak in each State and Territory of Australia;
article and photos by Nick and Ben Gough

IN 1999 WE SET OURSELVES THE CHALLENGE of climbing the highest peak in each State and Territory of Australia. These peaks present quite diverse challenges. For the five

peaks in the eastern States we had recourse to several authoritative guidebooks but for the three desert peaks, we were on our own.

Mt Zeil, Northern Territory

Mt Zeil is towards the western end of the Macdonnell Ranges in the Northern Territory. We had our first lucky break when Nick discussed our challenge over a beer with a botanist mate from the Northern Territory's Parks & Wildlife Commission, and asked about access.

'Not real easy', advised Greg. 'Although it's part of a recent extension to the Western Macs Park, it's not that easy to get to.' Mt Zeil is some 40 dry kilometres from the nearest park access point at Redbank Gorge to the south-east. Closer access points are through Glen Helen station to the west or Narwietooma to the north, but the owners aren't always happy to allow strangers into their property. You could arrange a helicopter drop, I guess...' Greg was warning to the problem '...or we may have a botanical expedition later in the year that you could join.'

In August an email arrived from Raelee, one of Greg's field botanists, saying that she and her offsider Jenni would be in the Mt Zeil area in September: be there or be square. We arrived in Alice Springs to join

a PWCNT contingent comprising Raelee and Jenni, Greg and his wife Amanda, and the head ranger for the Western Macdonnell Ranges National Park, Mike Heywood, and his wife Gail.

We took a four-wheel-drive track in from the north through Narwietooma station and made camp four to five kilometres from the base of Mt Zeil. Early the next morning we walked to the base of the mountain and followed a steep gorge on the north face south towards the summit, some 900 metres above. This gorge comprises successions of large boulders over which we clambered, and then climbed steep rock slabs.

Eventually the watercourse peters out and we had to push our way through dense spinifex on the open face of the upper part of the peak.

After five hours in the hot sun and spinifex, we made it to the summit. Mike boiled a billy of tea and Raelee and Jenni collected samples while the rest of us collected our breath. Central Australia was at our feet: to the south were Mts Razor-

back and Sonder in the distance and, dropping sharply away, the very steep southern face of Mt Zeil. True to the mountain's traditional name, Urlatherke, it has a blue-green hue as it is festooned with macrozamia and lichen; hardly a spinifex is to be seen. A tin can in the summit cairn has a few dozen records on scraps of paper from previous climbs. Mike has estimated that up to the mid-1990s the peak may have been climbed only about 80 times.

We returned by a different route, heading west and then north down a very steep gorge which is a succession of huge, dry waterfalls. After this knee-jarring, toe-squeezing descent, Mike, Jenni and Raelee felt the need for further exercise and headed back over another ridge while the rest of us plodded slowly round the flat plain in the hot afternoon to our camp for a beer or two, a well-earned barbecue and a glorious night beneath the stars of the central Australian sky.

Below, Ben on the summit of Mt Zeil, with Mt Razorback in the middle distance and Mt Sonder beyond. Right, Raelee on the north side of Mt Zeil.



Mt Ossa, Tasmania

Following the Mt Zeil success, we set off on a Christmas trip to Tassie for an attempt at Mt Ossa. Nick had made several unsuccessful attempts to climb Ossa before, all curtailed by bad, and in some cases atrocious, weather. This attempt was to be a well-planned assault, beginning with a pre-expedition training camp at Freycinet Lodge; we planned to jog to Wineglass Bay and up Mt Amos to hone our fitness for the campaign ahead.

Tasmanian peaks don't yield their summits easily and Ossa's long-range defences must have been working overtime as Luisa broke her arm falling down a steep granite boulder in Freycinet National Park. Despite her plastered arm she valiantly humped her pack up the steep ascent on the Arm River Track and then through the bogs beside Lake Ayr. Although steep at the beginning and hard going, this route from the east is much quicker into the Pelion area than the usual ones from the north or the south on the Overland Track,

either of which would have taken three days each way. The weather was glorious—the Tasmanian weather god was either on holiday or in a strangely benevolent mood as the next day also dawned fine and clear.

We battled the early-morning traffic jam heading south on the Overland Track; then, with the weather still suspiciously clear, we set out round Mt Doris. Luisa again showed great fortitude, scrambling one-armed all the way to the last steep climb on Mt Ossa, at which point she decided that discretion was the better part of valour and sat in the shade of a rock while we completed the climb.

The views on this crystal-clear day were fabulous, making up for Nick's previous failed attempts. All the classic peaks to the north were visible: Barn Bluff, Cradle Mountain, Mt Oakleigh and Mt Pelion West, while to the south was a riot of peaks in the DuCane Range and a clear view of Frenchmans Cap on the distant horizon.



Above, on the Arm River Track below Mt Ossa. Luisa Gough (with broken arm; the legacy of a tumble on the Freycinet Peninsula), left, Jill Gough and Ben. **Below**, Ben on the summit of Mt Ossa. Mt Pelion West is in the middle ground, with Barn Bluff over his left shoulder, and Cradle Mountain further right.



Mt Bogong, Victoria



There is no mistaking Mt Bogong's summit cairn, here dwarfing Ben.

With Mt Ossa under our belts, on our return to Melbourne we made a quick trip up to the Victorian Alps to celebrate the new millennium with an ascent of Mt Bogong. It was a re-ascent for Nick as he had climbed it on one rather forgettable occasion in 1976.

On our Y2K expedition we walked the Staircase Spur route as a long day walk. Jill and Luisa didn't think it necessary to trundle all the way up and relaxed at Bivouac Hut while we completed the ascent amid swirling mists which rolled away on the summit to give us some fine views and a far more pleasant experience than Nick had had 25 years earlier.

Bartle Frere, Queensland

Now the going was becoming serious again. We set the Melbourne Cup weekend the following November for an expedition to Bartle Frere in far north Queensland. We took some risks with the weather as it was about the start of the wet season. In that year (2000), the nearby peak Bellenden Ker was officially the wettest place in Australia—its annual rainfall was 12 461 millimetres!

Not surprisingly, Bartle Frere is surrounded by dense tropical rainforest and, to add to its 'charms', it is host to one of the world's largest snakes, the scrub python. It also has far too many creepers pretending to be scrub pythons. Bartle Frere is a significant walking challenge. It starts from close to sea level, then climbs nearly 1600 metres of steep terrain in tropical heat. One of the guidebooks grades this as a 'gruelling walk' requiring 'peak fitness'. We agree!

It was forecast to be 35°C in Cairns the day we confronted the peak, and we started at 6 am to complete most of the climb in the 'cool' of the morning. It began pleasantly enough but by the time we reached the second crossing of Majuba Creek—just before the climb gets serious—we were totally soaked in sweat and it was only 8 am. Before us was a climb of some 1200 metres in little more than three kilometres. We behaved like a pair of zealous camels in the creek to prepare for the ascent ahead.

It is long and steep; in many places it is like a stepladder of tree roots. It was hot and it was sweaty but we hadn't felt any-

steep section of undergrowth, we suddenly arrived in a nondescript pocket-handkerchief of a clearing with a wooden summit sign! The top! We had never felt so exultant. The views were not impressive through the tropical haze but our elation was immense.

However, the day was far from over. We made the long haul back down to Majuba Creek in good time and relaxed and refreshed our feet in the cool water before finishing our walk, very tired but with a triumphant spring in our step.

ing care to avoid any wrong turns, a night in the forest seemed quite possible. At 6 pm, very tired and definitely without a triumphant spring in our step, we burst out of the forest.

As it turned out, we were very lucky with the weather. Although it was intensely hot and humid on the day we climbed, it was dry. 'The wet' arrived the very next day with tropical ferocity, by which time we were celebrating our climb in the safe confines of a restaurant in Port Douglas.



Ben cools his hot feet in Majuba Creek after descending from Bartle Frere.

thing yet. When we emerged from the dense rainforest into open sunlight at about 1300 metres, the heat was absolutely sapping and there were still some hundreds of metres of climbing left. Just to add a little spice, there was a boulderfield to scramble over.

We were becoming quite fatigued and then, as we pushed up through a particularly



The sign tells Ben that it's all over.

That was the plan, anyway. Until somewhere a kilometre or so from the end, as the late afternoon turned to gloom in the dense forest, the spring was decisively removed from our step as we began to worry that we had taken a wrong turn somewhere. The track was no longer familiar and there weren't any track markers to be seen.

After much anguish we retraced our steps up the hill to a point that was definitely on the right track. By now it was past 5 pm and it had become more than just gloomy. As we very carefully headed down again, tak-



The Goughs' ascents of the highest peak in each State or Territory

State/Territory	Peak	Height (metres)	Area	Date	Maps used
New South Wales	Mt Kosciuszko	2228	Snowy Mountains	2-1-01	Mount Kosciusko 1:50 000
Victoria	Mt Bogong	1986	Victorian Alps	3-1-00	Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000
Australian Capital Territory	Mt Bimberi	1913	Bimberi Range	5-1-01	Rendezvous Creek and Rule Point 1:25 00
Queensland	Bartle Frere South Peak	1622	Bellenden Ker Range	3-11-00	Bartle Frere 1:50 000
Tasmania	Mt Ossa	1617	Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park	21-12-99	Cathedral and Achilles 1:25 000 and Crodile Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park 1:100 000
Northern Territory	Mt Zeil (Uurlatherrke)	1531	Macdonnell Ranges	6-9-99	Hermonsbury 1:250 000
South Australia	Mt Woodroffe (Ngintaka Pilipirpa)	1435	Musgrave Ranges	8-7-02	Woodroffe 1:250 000
Western Australia	Mt McHarg (Minijyanha or Wirbilwirbil)	1253	Hamersley Range	3-4-02	Mount McHarg 1:50 000

Mt Kosciuszko, New South Wales, and Mt Bimberi, Australian Capital Territory



Mt Kosciuszko was easy to tick off. Nick had driven to the summit of Kosciuszko in the early 1970s before the road was closed at Charlottes Pass and had recently jogged up again. We took the chair-lift from Thredbo up to Crackenback, joining the throngs walking across to the summit. Despite the crowds it was a lovely stroll through alpine meadows.

After Mt Kosciuszko we turned our attention to nearby Mt Bimberi on the border of NSW and the ACT. We followed the Alpine Walking Track past Oldfields Hut and up to Murrays Gap, then climbed the summit ridge.

Two of our guidebooks caution that the route from Murrays Gap to the summit is a steep, trackless scrub-bash. In our experience the navigation is now reasonably easy; a faint but discernible pad makes its way up the ridge to the summit plateau—if you find this pad at the start of the climb, navigation should not be a problem. The summit plateau is a beautiful alpine meadow with great views. And, unlike at Kosciuszko a few days earlier, we were alone.



Top, Luisa, left, Ben and Jill back at Oldfields Hut below Mt Bimberi.

Above, Nick atop Mt Bimberi.

Below, it's a family affair: Nick, left, Luisa, Jill and Ben on top of Australia.



Mt Meharry, Western Australia

Australia is a bloody big country. We were aware of all the 'wide brown land' clichés but the reality only sank in after we had driven all the way from Melbourne to the Pilbara for the sole purpose of climbing Mt Meharry.

The area around Mt Meharry (Minjiyanha or Wirlibiwirlibi) in Kanjini National Park is hot, dry and inhospitable country accessible only by four-wheel drive. We tried to book our car on the train to Perth but it wouldn't fit so the only option was to drive. And drive. And drive. It doesn't make a whole lot of sense, 'but is five days' driving to Mt Meharry any different from five days' bog-trotting to Precipitous Bluff? Nick reasoned.



Nick, left, and Ben at the summit of Mt Meharry.

'Better, in fact,' added Ben, 'you don't get leech infested!' April 2002 was set for the expedition.

After 4200 kilometres of driving the final leg into Mt Meharry is along an old mining exploration track, overgrown with spinifex for much of its 15–20 kilometres. There were a few washouts to navigate and plenty of spinifex seeds to remove from the radiator as we pushed through the overgrowth; there were also lots of spiders, angry at being removed from their spinifex bushes.

We rolled out our swags in the middle of the track about four kilometres from Mt Meharry. It was the only clear spot and there was little prospect of being disturbed. As temperatures reached the high 30s during the day we set off very early the next morning to make the 400 metre climb before the worst of the heat.

Mt Meharry is an open, round hill with a light cover of spinifex and is in some ways a bit of an anticlimax: after the distance travelled and the four-wheel drive, the climb was

very easy. We followed an old track to the summit. We could even have driven up but that wasn't permitted by our rules and is probably not sanctioned by the authorities. We were on the summit before 8 am and, after enjoying the splendid views and light breeze, arrived back at camp before 10 am.

We celebrated this summit success with a few days in the glorious gorges at the northern end of the Karijini National Park, then moved on to Cable Beach at Broome, where we began to plan the final expedition.

Mt Woodroffe, South Australia

Mt Woodroffe was named after the nineteenth-century surveyor George Woodroffe Goyder but it has been known since time immemorial as Ngintaka Pilpira; we had this one last peak to climb.

It is a peak that captures Australia's long cultural history. It is still in the custody of its traditional owners, the Anangu, and its long spiritual history is still very much alive. We were honoured that it was told to us in



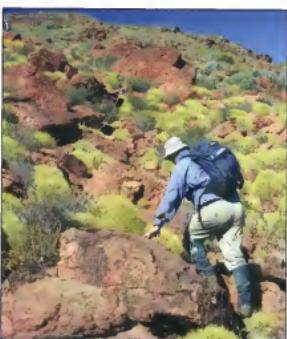
Local Anangu elder Peter Nyanyingu and his wife Yumi Niya at the foot of Mt Woodroffe.

words, song and dance during a memorable trip in July 2002.

The Musgrave Ranges in the far north of South Australia are in the Anangu Pitjant-

jatjara homeland, a freehold title that was granted to the Anangu in 1981 and we had to have permission from the Anangu and from the traditional owners of Mt Woodroffe and its surrounds, Peter Nyanyingu and Marg Dagg, to access the area and to climb the mountain.

We arranged our trip through an Anangu-owned tour company, Desert Tracks (www.desert-tracks.com.au). Its manager Jim Montgomery procured all the necessary permits and organised a wonderful week following the story of the Ngintaka. Wati Ngintaka is a giant Perentie Lizard Man from the Dreamtime who traversed this country forming ranges, lakes, mountains and creeks. He provided many of the bush foods the Anangu gather today. Mt Woodroffe is the Wati Ngintaka standing erect,



Nick scrambling on the upper reaches of Mt Woodroffe.

and is a source of knowledge for the local people.

We then made our way to Ngarutjara in the shadow of Mt Woodroffe, where we were welcomed by the local Anangu elder, Peter Nyanyingu. He was clearly delighted to have us there to climb the mountain and was not aware of any other 'white fellas' who had climbed it in the past 20 years. Peter regaled us with further stories of the Wati Ngintaka and of hunting wallabies on the flanks of Mt Woodroffe in his youth.

The next morning Peter guided us along a faint, bone-jarring track for some ten kilometres to the base of Mt Woodroffe. He then indicated the route we should follow: skirting to the west of some deep gorges on the north face and then south-east along a steep ridge towards the summit ridge, then swinging back west to the summit.

Throughout the climb there was a moderate cover of spinifex and in parts there were spiny, head-high acacias to be pushed through—leather garden gloves are highly recommended. During the lower half of the climb the scree-like rock is very

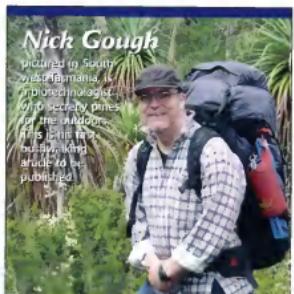


Ben, left, and Nick at the summit of Mt Woodroffe.

loose and was awkward and tiring on the descent.

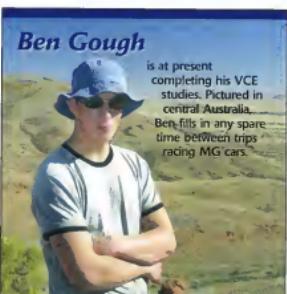
We took the walk slowly on a clear July day, making the 700 metre climb to the summit in three hours. There we relaxed to celebrate the success of our venture and to savour the solitude and the serenity—until we were joined by a party of 25 geologists! Quite by chance the Australian Geological Society was holding a field trip to the Musgrave Ranges and had arranged to climb Mt Woodroffe on the very same day. Despite its isolation, we encountered more people on Mt Woodroffe than on any other peak except Mt Kosciuszko!

Mt Woodroffe is a beautiful desert mountain with a living history and it provided a fitting climax to our venture. We were honoured to have been allowed to climb it.



Nick Gough

Pictured in South West Tasmania, 100 km southeast of Hobart, in a forest of ancient pines in the shadow of Mt Field. Nick is a 17-year-old schoolboy who has bagged 147 peaks published.



Ben Gough

is at present completing his VCE studies. Pictured in central Australia. Ben fills in any spare time between trips racing MG cars.

A climbing first?

This venture has been immensely satisfying. It has required travelling and walking in diverse environments, from the Alps to the tropics and the deserts. It was physically demanding; it was logistically intriguing; it was enlightening culturally. It took us out of our guidebooks and introduced us to an Australia of which many don't see enough. It also leaves us wondering whether anyone else has 'bagged' this list of peaks.

Death in the Mountains

What went wrong, and what can we learn? By Harley Wright

SEAMANS HUT IS A REMOTE, SILENT SENTINEL only a few kilometres from Mt Kosciuszko below the rocky ramparts of Etheridge Ridge. Normally only visited by a few cross-country skiers, on a late August day in 1999 it was a buzz of activity.

There were more skidoos (snowmobiles) parked outside than skis. There was an incessant throbbing from helicopters which searched the headwaters of the Snowy River and adjoining areas. Despite the lovely skiing conditions my wife and I felt sad.

It was now more than two weeks since four young Sydney men had left Thredbo to go snowboarding at Lake Albina. We listened to the activities of the searching police and discussed the situation with other skiers. We reluctantly concluded that the chances of finding them alive now were very slim.

Laurie Seaman and Evan Hayes had died near here in 1928 when they were caught in a blizzard. Seaman's parents had Seaman's Hut built as a memorial to their son and as a mountain shelter.

One of the young men now missing had been at school with our son so we could relate to the parents' anguish. But what had happened to the four snowboarders? They had planned to sleep in snow-caves. They had previously camped in the snow several times. They were believed to be well equipped. A heavy blizzard had raged the first night when they went out from the top of the Thredbo chair-lift and had continued throughout the next day. Had they been caught out and suffered hypothermia before they could dig a snow-cave? Perhaps drugs, including alcohol, had affected their judgement? Had they all gone over a cornice? Had they descended into the rugged, tree-covered gorges of Leather Barrel Creek or Lady Northcotes Canyon—and hence were not visible to the searching choppers? None of these options seemed to explain their total disappearance.

If they had dug their snow-cave as planned, perhaps a faulty stove had poisoned them with carbon monoxide? Or was it possible that they had suf-

'[Nothing] seemed to explain their total disappearance.'

2 issue No. 178
Wednesday November 17 1999

Please texts Sud Charlie Sanderson crawls towards the site where ski poles were seen sticking out of the snow near Thredbo yesterday

Death in an icy tomb

By MARK LINDLOW

A SHADOW cast by abandoned ski sticks revealed the location of searchers to an icy cave where four men had been missing for three days. The skiers were astonished three months ago.

Two bodies in bright blue sleeping bags were pulled from the snow.

The late-morning discovery came in a remote area of the Thredbo mountain range which had already been sound searched for the past three days when the four mates left Thredbo on Saturday morning. Denis Phillips, 33, and friends Paul Sanderson, 21, and Paul Sanderson, 21, had planned a one-day snowboarding adventure.

"It was a bit of a risk but we believed we would be safe," says Denis. "We have never had time to go up there ever since."

Paul Sanderson
Tim Friend
Paul Friend
Tim Friend

Aerials: the hole in the snow
lapped under the weight of heavy snowdrifts to trap the four men
"The weather change is the killer," says Denis

N.S.W.
Vic.
Abra
Lake
Mt. Northcote
Mt. Clarke
HIDES FOUND
Through the snow

The Herald Sun
17 November 1999

located because the heavy snowfall sealed them in?

During the second week the snowboarders were missing. I spoke to the Austrian-born proprietor of a cross-country ski shop who was very experienced in skiing around the world. He said it was extremely doubtful that the four had suffocated in a snow-cave, that even when buried in avalanches people could live a reasonable time before they suffocated. His views reinforced my own.

Virtually all guides to snow-caving note the need for a ventilation hole made with a stock or ski; and that it should be kept open, but that it is all right to block (not seal) the tunnel entrance with a rucksack to limit cold draughts.

On 16 November the receding snow revealed the bodies of the four young men four kilometres from the Thredbo chair-lift and 1.3 kilometres short of Seaman's Hut. Reports indicated that they were in a snow-cave, were not in their sleeping-bags and one appeared to have been trying to dig out. The State Coroner John Abernethy dispensed with the holding of inquests into the deaths of the four snowboarders as the manner and cause of death was clear to him and to the families. But not to me, or to others active in snow-camping until some aspects were clarified by detailed investigation.

In the file at the Glebe Coroner's Court, Dr Allan Cala's autopsy report on one of the snowboarders reveals the 'cause of death' as

out of their sleeping-bags and partly dressed in wet weather clothes.

Garry K Smith led a party that also camped in a snow-cave nearby on the weekend that the four snowboarders disappeared when there was a heavy dump of snow. Smith said that on the Sunday night 'around 2 am I awoke to find I was breathing a little more deeply than normal, and had a slightly elevated pulse rate. Having experienced foul air in limestone caves, I knew that the oxygen in the snow-cave was not being replenished as fast as we were breathing it. But I felt sure we had many more hours of air left as the porous snow does breathe to a certain extent. I went back to sleep. Once David (a

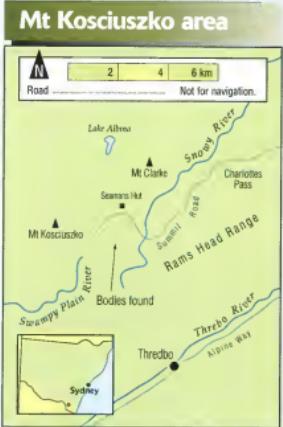
quicker at higher elevations, that is, above 3000 metres. Persons who have a blunted respiratory drive from disease or certain drugs (narcotics) might not experience arousal.'

The evidence indicates that the four snowboarders were aroused by the symptoms of high carbon dioxide levels. It seems that they could not get fresh air quickly enough.

We don't suffocate in bedrooms at home. So how long can you breathe in a totally sealed snow-cave or igloo? In his written evidence to the inquiry, Tim Macartney-Snape notes that the 'relatively wet snow blowing in small particles would have formed a very dense snow-pack, making air



A well-made snow-cave. Illustration by Murray Frederick used with the permission of Australian Geographic.



'accidental suffocation' with 'other significant conditions contributing to the death' being 'possible hypothermia'.

The pathologist's analysis of blood and urine showed no detectable levels of alcohol, cannabis or a range of other drugs. He also reported a normal blood level of carbon monoxide at one per cent, indicating that the young men were not poisoned by carbon monoxide from a faulty stove.

There were various indications of arousal or action by all four snowboarders immediately prior to death. They were all found

friend who was sleeping in a tent outside punched the hole into the cave this cleared the air and I was all right lat 3 am.'

'Foul air' is high carbon dioxide and low oxygen. These symptoms of increased breathing and heart rate are from high carbon dioxide levels, not from low oxygen levels.

If you are sleeping soundly after a hard day's skiing and fresh snow seals your ventilation, would the decreasing oxygen levels lead first to unconsciousness, then death? Dr Colin Grissom, researching avalanche death and survival, monitored the breathing of subjects buried in the snow. He confirms that 'as carbon dioxide rises while breathing in an enclosed space it will cause a sensation of breathlessness sufficient to wake normal persons sleeping in a snow-cave at low or moderate elevation. If carbon dioxide rises too high, however, it will displace oxygen in the alveoli and the combination of high carbon dioxide (which has a sedative effect at very high levels) and low oxygen will result in unconsciousness. This will happen much

transfer through it very slow'. Perhaps in some Australian snow conditions one cannot rely on a good supply of air from the porous snow of a snow-cave or igloo.

Smith's snow-caves were each about 10.5 cubic metres (3.5 metres x 2 metres x 1.5 metres) and held two people, that is, held a bit over five cubic metres of air a person, which would hold sufficient air, if completely fresh, to last a bit longer than six hours if immediately sealed and not allowing for any exchange with the porous snow.

Before going to bed for the night you should totally refresh the air—especially if you have been cooking, which consumes oxygen and produces carbon dioxide just like you do. This will mean clearing the entrance and flapping a sleeping-bag or mat to refresh the air.

Importantly, what lessons could be learned from this tragedy? How safe or dangerous is it to sleep in a snow-cave or igloo on a regular basis or even in an emergency if besieged without a tent? Is it worth the risk?

A Web search for 'suffocation' and 'snow-cave' gave 28 hits. Only one of these referred to a real case of people suffocating in snow-caves in this way. And that reference was to the Thredbo/Seamans Hut tragedy. The only other death was in a snow-cave which had had a large dump of snow put on it by a snow-clearing machine; namely, human error.

Clearly it is necessary to check whether snow is restricting your ventilation. This might be done in the course of normal, wakeful periods at night. Check whether the ventilation hole is open—move a stock or ski up and down in it. Check that the entrance still has gaps. For extra safety and peace of

based on avalanche survival studies and equipment.

The Avalung has been designed and tested as a safety device for people skiing in avalanche-prone areas. The device allows a buried person to breathe air from an artificial air pocket (volume 500 millilitres) in the body of the snow.

I have tested an easily made stock-snorkel from the surface of the snow. It took only a few minutes to break off both ends of an aluminium tube stock. I breathed air from the snow, quite easily, for ten minutes. If your snow-cave has foul air, it is essential that your snorkel is sucking fresh air from the porous snow and not from the expired

- Sleep with your head near a vent hole where an ingress of fresh snow might awaken you.
- Keep all digging implements and a torch close to hand and be very clear where they are before you go to bed.
- Keep a stock or ski in the vent hole to help to clear it during the night, and keep other skis and stocks for making another vent hole or breathing snorkels as a last resort. But an upright ski or stock outside is also desirable as a marker of your location.
- Determine the best direction to make an alternative vent hole if the existing one gets blocked and can't be unblocked.
- Set an alarm to check ventilation—and the weather outside.

Of course, if you need shelter when caught out without a tent, you don't have to rely on a snow-cave or an igloo. Always carry a bivvy-bag and a small foam mat, and this should be at least life saving, albeit not too comfortable for a night. ☺



Left, broken stock ends. Right, packing snow around a protruding stock-snorkel. Photos by Harley Wright

mind you can set an alarm at one- to three-hourly intervals.

If I were to find myself snowed in and breathing fast from high carbon dioxide in a snow-cave or buried tent I would first attempt to unblock the entrance or breathing hole to get fresh air. The tail end of a ski can be pushed in a metre before the binding hinders it. Or a stock pushed handle first into the snow can make a small hole.

If these failed, as a last resort I would use a stock as a snorkel to access fresh air in the body of the snow. After breaking off each end of the stock, I would push it as far as I could into the snow. Snow blocks it at first, but when withdrawn, tapped sharply and flicked, the blocking snow is removed. With the 'snorkel' reinserted and sealed by pressing snow around it where it protrudes, I would suck and breathe remote air with ordinary oxygen levels and exhale into the cave. However, this of course increases the cave's carbon dioxide levels. The principle is

air in your own chamber—hence the need to seal where the snorkel protrudes into the cave by packing a collar of snow tightly around it.

As applies to any adventurous sports with high risk levels, it is desirable to get formal training in snow-camping with professional guides or specialist groups such as cross-country ski clubs.

If you do run out of fresh air in a snow-cave or igloo at an altitude of below 3000 metres the physiological stresses of deeper and faster breathing should arouse you to the danger. A snow-cave still seems to me to be a suitable shelter if the following precautions are observed.

Suggested safeguards against snow-cave suffocation

- Vigorously ventilate the cave before you go to bed.

Harley Wright

loves skiing and bushwalking in the Mt Kosciuszko area. As well as kayaking (which he has done in both Polar regions) his passion is native flora. He is an expert on weed plumes caused by run-off in urban bushland, and promotes abatement measures. He is environmental manager of a paper company.



DISAPPEARING TRICK

Searching for Vanishing Falls

Graham Wootton describes a trip into the heart of Tasmania's South-west



BY THE EARLY 1970S MUCH OF SOUTH-WEST Tasmania had been explored and the great bush-walking challenges had been met. Federation Peak was climbed in 1949 and had been dispensed with in a weekend in 1965. A traverse of the Western Arthur Range was completed in 1960 and by 1972 it had been done in a day. Were any mysteries and major, unexplored landmarks left in the South-west?

A major waterfall on the Salisbury River, in un-explored country behind Precipitous Bluff, seemed

to fit the bill. First sighted by pioneer South-west aviator Lloyd Jones in about 1947, the water flowing over the falls seemed mysteriously to disappear at the base of the cascade and the riverbed appeared to be dry for several kilometres down-

The heart of Tasmania's South-west; the view west from Mt Bobs to Federation Peak. All photos by Graham Wootton



stream. With the unlikely but possible exception of an unrecorded visit by an early prospector, no one had reached the falls, now named Vanishing Falls, on foot. Although quite close to the South Coast Track, the last six kilometres of extremely thick scrub had discouraged walkers from attempting to reach the area.

By mid-1973, a number of groups were making plans to reach the falls and competition to be the first was keen. There still existed some of that unique thrill that comes from exploring unknown country, a rare commodity.

In September 1973 a party from Elizabeth Matriculation College attempted to reach the falls from the South Coast Track. However, bad weather and patches of impenetrable scrub forced them to turn back short of their goal. In November 1973, Jeanette Collin and Attila Vrana, from the small Manuka Club, reached the falls. They took quite a different route from the first party—they started from the Picton River valley and reached the falls in five days, walking by way of Mt Bobs. After exploring the falls area they climbed on to the ridge at the back of Precipitous Bluff and traversed to New River Lagoon—a distance of nine kilometres which took four days of bashing through some of the worst scrub in the South-west.

Although Vanishing Falls had been reached, interest in the area was still high and we went ahead with our trip, planned for January–February 1974. Jeanette Collin's description of the scrub at the back of Precipitous Bluff was not inviting. We had a good look at the area from the air when we were dropping supplies at Prion Beach for the last few days of the trip. Still a Blue Mountains boy at heart, I was attracted by the idea of travelling down the rivers rather than scrub-bashing. The bed of the Salisbury River looked as though it would be easy going. However, the banks of the New River were heavily forested and we knew that there was a very bad area of bauera for at least a kilometre upstream from New River Lagoon. Liloing was a common method of travelling the rivers in the Blue Mountains when the banks became impassable, so why not on the New River? And so our plans were set.

The party was made up of three Tasmanian—Rick Rolls, Keith Antonsen and myself, with two Sydney bushwalkers—Phil Butt and Richard Wood. Jim England, legendary aviator and one of the instigators of the trip, unfortunately had to withdraw at the last moment due to suspected appendicitis.

After being driven to the starting point by our families, we set out from the Picton River on 27 January. With equipment food for ten days and the essential Lilos, our packs each weighed about 29 kilograms at the start of the trip. For most of us it was our first long trip for quite a while and sore shoulders and backs were common complaints. These were the days before hip belts and ergonomic designs.

For the first two days we were following a track recently cut to Mt Bobs by the Manuka Club. Although the walk through the forest on the banks of the Picton River was relatively easy, the heat slowed us all considerably—apparently the temperature reached 35°C in Hobart. We could not help but be inspired by the magnificent forest along the Picton River. Huge eucalypts, up to 60 metres high, grow in profusion along the banks and ferny glades are interspersed with scrubby sections. By lunch time we had reached the Farmhouse Creek junction, so we called an extended stop and took our last opportunity to cool off on the river.

such nights sleeping out, a rather unusual experience in the South-west.

On the second day, the weather was slightly cooler and we left the creek and headed up a long ridge towards Mt Bobs. The vegetation changed from eucalypt forest at the lower level to myrtle, sassafras and King Billy pine as we gained height. Some of the pines were the biggest any of us had seen—we estimated them to be up to 25 metres high. Occasional high points along the track afforded spectacular views of the Cracraft valley and the Federation Peak massif. Incredibly populations of March flies inhabited each of these open areas. Fortunately, South-west March flies are sluggish and very easy to swat—an action which quickly became instinctive.

At about 3 pm we reached our previous day's goal, Pine Lake, and decided to move on to Lake Sydney, an easy, one kilometre walk up the



The remote and elusive Vanishing Falls from the air. This view of the riverbed below the falls explains the origin of their name. Right, Vanishing Falls and the cairn made by the first party to reach them.

After lunch we headed up Farmhouse Creek towards Mt Bobs. The track was so vague that we found it quicker to walk up the open creek-bed. Little did we realise that the route we were following would become a popular trade route to the Cracraft valley and Federation Peak by way of Moss Ridge.

This area is well known for the large number of tiger snakes along the track. The scent of leatherwood was strong in the air as we pitched camp at 7 pm on the banks of the creek, still well short of our goal, Pine Lake. The air was now reasonably cool and the tiredness of the day dissolved as we sat around the camp-fire under a starry sky. As there was little sign of any change in the weather, we dispensed with our tents and slept out on our Lilos. This was to be the first of four

'at times we resorted to crawling on our hands and knees to get our packs and ourselves through the scrub.'

valley. We were a bit perturbed that there was no evidence of a creek in the valley as our water-supplies were becoming short. When the first party member broke through the scrub into the Lake Sydney basin there was a cry of horror, 'the lake's dry, someone's pulled the plug'. After further inspection we realised that the football-field-sized grassy area was not Lake Sydney but the limestone sink-hole area that drains the outlet creek below the lake. Normally this sink-hole system is the only drainage from the lake and the water reappears somewhere downstream in Farmhouse Creek. After heavy rain the capacity of the limestone drainage system is exceeded, the sink-hole fills and water floods down the valley. It was quite a surprise to find a very similar model of the Vanishing Falls drainage system so early in the trip.

After exploring and photographing the sink-hole we climbed up the short slope to lake level and made camp. Lake Sydney is one of the most extraordinarily beautiful places in Tasmania. Dense forest rings most of the lake and a variety of Tasmanian flora is represented. Pandani, King Billy pine, tree-fern, banksia and myrtle grow in profusion and small creeks wander among grass kept short by browsing marsupials. On the eastern side of the lake an open, grassed area



with small beaches and warm, shallow water is an ideal camp-site. In this water was a large population of tadpoles. Several theories were advanced that wherever there are a lot of tadpoles there would soon be a lot of frogs and, consequently, large numbers of snakes to feed on the frogs. Fortunately, these theories proved groundless.

Another night under the stars and a warm, sunny morning followed. By this stage we had shaken off most of the cobwebs of civilisation and were beginning to feel quite fit. Rick remembered why he had been a bit faint at the top of each hill—the pint of blood he had donated the day before we left!

The morning of the third day was spent climbing from Lake Sydney to the Mt Bobs plateau. In contrast to the surrounding country, the summit of Mt Bobs is a flat, very open plateau, carpeted in cushion plants and pineapple grass. To the west across the gorge of the New River are the Eastern Arthur Range and Federation Peak. To the south Precipitous Bluff dominates the skyline.

This was our last taste of open country for many days. After lunch we headed south and dropped off the edge of the Mt Bobs plateau on to a ridge with the intriguing name Bobs Knobs. Bob has three knobs, each one notable for the ferocious scrub that surrounds it. By 6.30 pm we had only reached the saddle before Bobs Knobs One and decided to make camp where we could.

Fortunately, after about half an hour's search Phil found a small pool just big enough for us to fill our water buckets. We were anxious about the ridge ahead as the previous party had not found any water.

Another clear, starry night followed and we again dispensed with tents and found enough flat areas among the scrub for five Lilos. The sound of Lilos being deflated each morning is one of the most notable memories from this trip!

After a hastily prepared breakfast we left camp at 7.45 am, keen to come to grips with the ridge. In anticipation of a dry day we had filled every conceivable container in our packs with water and had about three litres each. Again the weather was fine. Valley

platforms for the Lilos. The weather was still amazingly good and once again we dispensed with the tents.

As we were cooking, a light plane flew over and we guessed that it would be Jim England keeping a lookout for us—which we verified later. That night we slept a little more soundly. Although our three kilometres of progress that day seemed amazingly little, we were confident of reaching the Salisbury River the next day and that it would also be our last day of bad scrub.

Our hopes of a short day to the Salisbury River were soon dashed. To the non-bush-walker it may seem rather crazy to spend your holidays forcing a way through thick scrub. However, there are many compensations which usually outweigh the effort entailed. The unique experience of travelling in virtually unexplored country; the feeling of being completely dependent on your own resources and the satisfaction when the goal is reached combine to provide a much richer experience than would be the case if the walking were always easy.

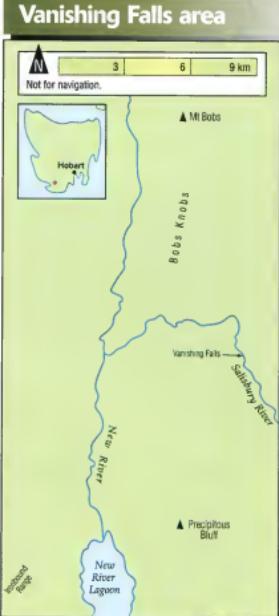
By 4 pm we had traversed to the end of Bobs Knobs and begun our 700 metre descent to the Salisbury River. At 7 pm we broke from the scrub on to the delightfully open gravel bed of the river. Spirits were high as we drank our fill and washed off the sweat and dirt. The hardships of the previous two days disappeared like magic as we set about cooking a huge evening meal. Anticipating a relatively easy day ahead, we sat around the camp-fire until well after 11 pm.

When we awoke on day six the weather had finally broken and there was a light drizzle. After a quick breakfast we set out for the falls, about seven kilometres upstream from our camp. Boulder hopping up the riverbed was quite easy and we made rapid progress. After about three kilometres we noticed something rather eerie. The quite strong flow in the river was fading away to nothing and only 200 metres further up the riverbed was dry for the remaining four kilometres to the falls. We couldn't find any obvious points from which the water was issuing.

At about 1 pm we rounded the final bend in the river and finally saw the object of our trip. All thoughts of lunch were cast aside until we had photographed the falls and added our names to the visitors' book, concealed in a cairn built by Jeanette and Attila in November. Unfortunately, as a result of the long spell of dry weather we had enjoyed on our way in, the falls were less than their spectacular best. The brooding, overcast sky helped to enhance the mystique of the area and we weren't disappointed. We didn't have time to explore the area thoroughly and could only conjecture the path of the water from the falls to the point where it reappears downstream. Cavers have



Keith Antonysen, left, and Rick Rolls in the sink-hole area at Lake Sydney.



mists rising with the warmth of the morning sun spilled over the ridges in huge waves.

The traverse of Bobs Knobs One was relatively straightforward and by 10 am we were in the next saddle. After a short, open, grassy flat the scrub closed in again and our progress slowed to a snail's pace. Most of the time we walked through a dwarf forest with tough, springy limbs that made our progress with bulky rucksacks very difficult. The many fallen logs were a chaotic mess and at times we resorted to crawling on our hands and knees to get our packs and ourselves through the scrub.

By 4 pm we had traversed Bobs Knobs Two, about three kilometres from our campsite the night before. It was obvious that we would not make the Salisbury River that night, so we descended some 200 metres on the western side of the ridge until we found a plentiful supply of cold, clear water in a small creek. We set up camp on a 35° slope in dense myrtle forest and chopped five

since explored and mapped this subterranean drainage system in detail.

After lunch, the drizzle turned to light rain so we abandoned the idea of climbing to the top of the falls. Yours truly headed back to camp slightly ahead of the rest of the party, who had elected to spend a little longer in the area. I had noted that it had taken three hours to reach the falls from the camp and, as the rain would make walking slower on the way back, looking out for the camp-site

graphically embarrassed' and to thank them for their concern.

After heavy overnight rain, the river level had risen considerably. By lunch-time at the New River junction, the level was up by more than half a metre. We could hear the distinctive clunk of boulders rolling along the riverbed—obviously it was not a day for Liloing. We set up camp early and spent the afternoon drying out our wet clothes and making repairs to our equipment.

corks. Reluctantly, we resorted to wading down the edge of the lagoon.

When we reached Prion Beach on day ten we recovered our air drops intact. After setting up camp at the western end of the beach we cooked up an enormous feast and celebrated with our bottle of wine.

After a further two days' walking along the South Coast Track, we arrived at Bathurst Harbour and the King homestead. Although they were less challenging than the



On New River Lagoon under the watchful gaze of Precipitous Bluff.

after three hours' walking would suffice. I had not allowed for my fixation with getting back to camp for tea as soon as possible and that my foot was well and truly down on the accelerator pedal.

After three hours I had in fact already walked past the camp-site and continued down the Salisbury River. Still no camp-site—I pushed a little harder! Funny, I don't remember that major creek entering on the right bank this morning. 'Oh well, just keep walking. Another kilometre and still no camp-site—perhaps I really should have a look at the map.' The horrible truth dawned on me: I had missed the camp-site, continued down the final three kilometres of the Salisbury River and that creek entering on the right bank was actually the New River.

It was 5.30 pm so I made a rapid reverse thrust and headed back to camp before I ran out of daylight. The others, by now in a state of considerable anxiety, had hung a pair of underpants on a prominent bush by the river to mark the camp. I walked in to camp at about 7.15 pm and, trying to act as nonchalantly as possible, said, 'just doing a bit of recce downstream'. The torrent of abuse that immediately erupted convinced me to give up my act, admit that I had been 'geo-

The next morning was fine but the river level was still high. As our food supplies were running low, we decided to push on down the river-bank rather than wait any longer. We encountered a few patches of moderate scrub at first, then to our delight we walked through open myrtle forest with huge man ferns and native laurel below the canopy. By 5 pm we had travelled six kilometres and we set up camp above New River Lagoon; our intention was to travel the remaining distance on the river.

The next morning brought the welcome sun and warmth we had been waiting for. After lining our rucksacks with waterproof bags, we inflated our Lilos and took to the river. Initially only Keith and I took the plunge, the others preferred to continue walking. The beginning of the bauera thickets soon changed their mind. After a week of pushing through scrub, two hours paddling down the river was heaven. Thick forest lined the banks of the New River and, towering over a 1000 metres above, the cliffs of Precipitous Bluff glistened from the rain of several days before.

We had hoped to paddle across New River Lagoon on the Lilos but a stiff sea breeze had raised a chop on the lagoon and we were soon bobbing up and down like

earlier part of the trip, the magnificent beaches and coastal scenery were a refreshing change from the thick scrub and forest that predominated on the route to Vanishing Falls.

A fitting climax to the trip was a flight back to Cambridge from Bathurst Harbour on a beautiful, cloudless afternoon. ☺

Graham Wootton

moved to Tasmania in 1971 to work as a structural engineer. His outdoors interests include bush-walking, cross-country skiing, mountain-bike riding and wilderness photography. He runs a photography business in Hobart.



A Stroll Down the Goulburn

Wildlife and sandstone cliffs, by Anthony Dunk

MY QUEST TO EXPLORE GOULBURN RIVER National Park began several years ago when I first noticed its large, green boundary on a map of New South Wales. I had walked a lot of the country to the south, in Wollemi and Yengo National Parks, but this park at the top of the Hunter Valley remained a mystery. Hardly anyone had heard of it and even fewer had actually been there.

In the summer of 2000–2001, I headed up to Merriwa with a friend and then

drove south through the park to Lees Pinch lookout. From this vantage point we could see a dark-green swath of eucalypts stretching east and west into the distance. Yellow cliffs broke through the forest, marking the meandering course of the river.

We continued south along the road only to find that the causeway was flooded by about a metre of fast-flowing water. A local farmer with a heavily loaded ute ploughed across the swollen river but

Easy river-side walking below mighty sandstone bluffs. All photos by Anthony Dunk



even with my four-wheel-drive station-wagon I felt that turning back was the only safe option. I drove home disappointed but knew that I would soon return.

In August 2001 the opportunity to explore the park arose again. Bruce Stafford from Sydney University Bushwalkers had organised a weekend walk from Meads Crossing down the river to Morrison Flat. Apart from the inconvenience of having to ask a local property owner for permission to cross his land, it was a great walk.

The open, grassy river-banks made walking easy and the abundance of wombats and kangaroos grazing, even during the day, added interest. On Saturday night we camped near the base of impressive, 70 metre cliffs. The next day we headed back to our cars. All too soon our short exploratory walk was over. I knew I'd just have to come back and see more of this great country.

In September 2002 when the weather was pleasant and I needed a break from work I organised a three-day walk in the park. Bruce decided to come along and another friend, Sam Roberts, also thought it sounded like fun.

Sam and I set off from Gosford early on Friday afternoon and reached the old Wollombi Pub for a beer and a hamburger on the sunny verandah. We could have stayed for hours but the Hunter Valley beckoned. Our next stop was a winery north of Broke where we sampled

'Wineries and wilderness—what a combination!'

the local wines before choosing a few reds that would be great for our expedition. Wineries and wilderness—what a combination!

Driving along the bumpy road on the southern edge of Goulburn River National Park, we approached Lees Pinch just as the sun was dipping towards the horizon. We crossed the river at the causeway which had previously been too high to cross and drove up the hill to the lookout. We walked the short circuit, rushing to get to the best lookout rock while there was still light for photos. It was a perfect spring day and the sunset over the distant western edge of Goulburn River National Park was warm and golden.

In the twilight we drove the last few kilometres to White Box camp and set up our tent. Sam chose a spot for our camp-fire in front of a comfortable log, then we settled in to cook dinner and admire the stars. Bruce was due to arrive later that evening. A friendly possum

climbed down from a tree to visit us while we drank our way through a bottle of red.

We were up early the next morning and did a short car shuttle. We left my car at Lees Pinch and walked west from White Box camp along the ridge towards the river. The ridgework walking was pretty easy and soon

is any indication, wombats are much more agile than you would imagine!

Once we were in the side creek the walking was as easy and open as I remembered from my previous Goulburn River trip. We only had a short distance to travel as Bruce was joining us for a day walk and we had

really caught our attention were the large numbers of carp on the sand and mud on the bottom of the river. Schools of this pest stir up the sediments in long trails, turning the clear water cloudy.

Since we had time to waste and were curious, one of us waded into the river and attempted to catch a fish. This was easier said than done; someone had the bright idea of stunning a carp with a sharp blow from a stick. The fish were moving around fast, but in the shallow water the technique eventually paid off and we landed a two or three kilogram carp on the grassy bank.

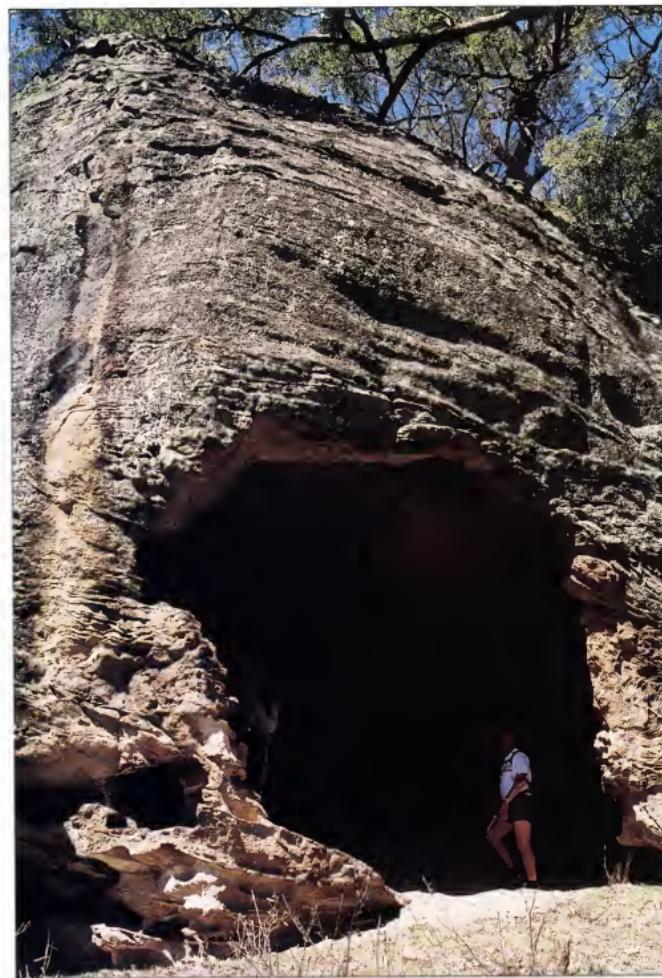
When we reached Rocky Creek we made a small fire and threw the fish on the hot coals. It took a long time to cook; eventually it was done. Bruce and I sampled the meat. It was edible but certainly not a great taste. I don't think either of us will be in a hurry to try it again!

After lunch, Sam and I followed Bruce up Rocky Creek to make sure he got back safely to the track which led to his car. The ridge where we decided to climb out of the creek was covered with sharp scrub. The leaves of the plants were shaped like mini boat-hooks. We eventually found the track and left Bruce to make his own way. Sam and I returned to Rocky Creek along a side creek which was much easier. We then strolled down the river for about a kilometre and made camp on an elevated, grassy flat below a 70 metre cliff.

Sunday was as perfect as the rest of the weekend and we looked forward to another great day of exploring. We were now solely drinking river water that we had boiled the night before. It tasted remarkably good considering that it came from a river with cattle tramping through it and carp stirring up sediment!

Our first stop for the day was at the twin, 50 metre waterfalls marked on the topographical map. Although they are difficult to see from the river they were worth a look. We found one of the falls up a short, narrow canyon. It had only a trickle of water but with its intricate, curved channel it would look spectacular after rain.

While we were looking for the second fall we found a massive slab of rock which had been separated from the cliff, leaving a metre wide slot. It was tempting to climb through the gap but the slab seemed precariously balanced. After morning tea we continued downstream. Our final goal was to explore an interesting canyon that heads north-west up a side creek. This wide, dry canyon is walled by 100 metre cliffs and is a cool, shady world in comparison with the sunny, open flats along the river.



Exploring a large, room-like cave near the river.

we were at a small clearing marked on the map. From this point we descended into a side creek to avoid the 40 metre cliffs that flank the river along this section. There are a few small cliffs in the side creek but we soon found a wombat track which climbed steeply down through the rocks. If this track

already decided that he should walk back along Rocky Creek to his car.

As we strolled along the river-bank we saw roos, wombats and a goanna. It was becoming a wildlife safari! A few earmarked cattle were also grazing, possibly they belonged to farmers further downstream. What

We walked up the canyon for about 500 metres. Due to the abundance of sandpaper fig trees I marked the unnamed creek Sandpaper Fig Creek on my map. The leaves of these trees feel just like sandpaper and I've read that Aborigines used them to smooth their wooden implements.

We walked back upstream to a large hairpin bend in the river and had a leisurely lunch. Then we bid the river farewell and headed up a side creek which angles southeast towards the road. The topographical map we had been using for the walk had the unfortunate name 'Mount Misery'. This seemed like a misnomer for the area but the creek was to change our opinion! At first, it was easy going; there was an interesting side branch with multiple caves and a short section of canyon. Then it was miserable. The scrub was sharp, prickly and close. Cliffs on both sides prevented our escape on to the ridge. Eventually we found a pass up through the smaller cliffs on the left and climbed out of the scrubby creek. Unfortunately, it was just as thick on the spur! Not until we reached the top of the ridge did the scrub subside. When we finally stumbled on to the road we realised that the ordeal had taken only an hour. In the heat of the afternoon sun it had seemed much longer! We soon reached my car and joyfully

guzzled some cool, clean water from a bottle in the back. We drove north to Merriwa, admiring the outline of Coolah Tops in the distance, then headed south for Wollombi. Four hours later we were home.

Back in the office a few days later my head was still filled with memories of the towering, yellow cliffs and walking among the spreading box trees. Like all good trips, this one had come to an end. Already I was planning to explore another section of the

river—Morrison's Flat to Drummers Flat. Maybe next spring!

Goulburn River National Park

Goulburn River National Park is just north of Wollemi National Park and is part of the northernmost tip of the rugged country known as the Greater Blue Mountains. It was gazetted in 1983 and contains almost

70 000 hectares of land. The main features of the park are the river gorge and the prominent basalt peak, Mt Dangar, in the east. As the park is in the western end of the Hunter Valley it is dry country but the river is an oasis and almost always contains water.

Aborigines lived near the cliff-lined banks of the Goulburn River for thousands of years before Europeans arrived. Some of the abundant caves and overhangs along the river still contain evidence of their long occupation in the form of deposits, axe-grinding grooves and rock art. About 300 sites of Aboriginal significance are in the park.

The Goulburn River valley has been farmed since the early 1800s and has an interesting history. Some of the events portrayed in the book *The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith* took place at Poggy Station near Lees Pinch in 1900. Jimmy Governor and his brother Joe murdered several locals as part of their crime spree across NSW.

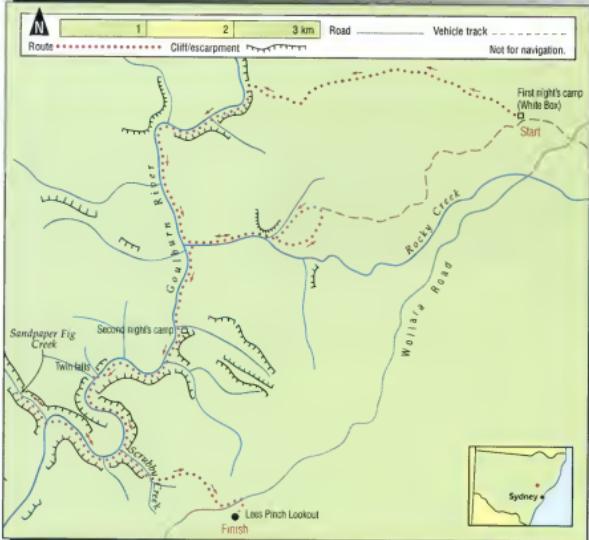
Camp-sites for vehicle-based camping are available in the park at the White Box, Spring Gully and Big River camping grounds. White Box is on the Merriwa-Wollar road north of Lees Pinch; the other two are about 20 kilometres north of Wollar along Mogo Lane. White Box hasn't any facilities at present. Spring Gully and Big River have pit toilets and barbecue plates.

Further information on Goulburn River National Park is available in *The NPA Guide to National Parks of Northern New South Wales*, by Peter Wright and members of the National Parks Association of NSW Inc. ☺



Enjoying the sunset from Lees Pinch lookout.

Goulburn River



Anthony Dunk

has written two bushwalking guidebooks and works as a software engineer. Having grown up on a remote property in New England, NSW, he feels an affinity for wilderness. The Goulburn River is a favourite new destination.



Promontory Punishment

'A day walk on steroids.' Article and photo by Eric Tlozek

MY UNCLE APPROACHED ME WITH AN IDEA; he wanted to walk a three-day circuit at Wilsons Promontory in a single day. It's a 45 kilometre walk on well-maintained tracks in Victoria's most popular National Park—a good idea but in my mind it remained just that.

Somewhat, it turned from an idea into a challenge. Being 18 years old, I am naturally invincible and unable to resist challenges. It is something that I will outgrow according to my mother. My uncle defies this motherly assurance by continuing to attempt slightly 'out there' adventures at the age of 42; afterwards he claims that he feels no soreness at all (that limp is an old footy injury).

We decided that the challenge was on and early one morning we were driving through Tidal River camping ground. It was raining and had rained for the whole of the two-hour drive to Wilsons Promontory. Not that a little rain was going to bother two people willing to undertake a challenge such as this one.

It was 9 am when we started out. We had to make good time to avoid a very late finish. Runners on and raincoats at the ready, we strode off up the road to Telegraph Saddle. This is a climb of about 300 metres and fresh as we were, it was a stroll. Aside from the irate truck driver who ran us off the road, and the persistent drizzle, it was quite pleasant.

From Telegraph Saddle you can see the slopes of Mt Oberon and Latrobe across the Tidal River valley. The mist was clearing and the rain eased; we found the track to Sealers Cove and followed it through bushland, bracken and gums which gave way to fern gullies. From Windy Saddle we began a strange, ambling run first perfected by a farmer from Colac in Victoria. Cliff Young, something of a hero to my uncle, won ultramarathons at this pace my uncle told me as we jogged along the track. He was an exceptionally fit man because he spent years chasing cows before he started running competitively.

'Interesting training technique', I mused, wondering what my family would say if I added some cow chasing to my fitness sessions.

Our discussion continued through cooler rainforest; cows, muddy paddocks and the merits of training in gumboots carried us past bushwalkers on the boardwalks. Clear creeks ran under our feet and we ducked under large tree ferns. The shuffle ended eight kilometres later at Sealers Cove, the camp-

site for what is arguably the most popular overnight walk in the State. We passed many walkers on the way; a number of them planned to stay at this very pretty beach for the night.

'Who's got time for organised, structured challenges these days?' my uncle asked through a mouthful of Grandma's fruitcake as we walked along the beach.

'It's better just to get an idea and go.' I agreed but I wished I had trained a bit more because the run and my old shoes had triggered strange shooting pains in my legs. I walked quietly for a while and the coastal scenery we could see as we climbed the bluff at the entrance to the cove cleared my mind very quickly. The sun was out and the sea was sparkling. Little islands were visible near the horizon as well as the coast of the northern Prom in a series of rocky coves that rise to bushy hills.

It was an impressive sight. But I was worried when the view inspired my uncle with another idea. It involved sea kayaks although I had to admit that exploring that coast-

line would make a fantastic expedition. The weather remained sunny and warm as we passed struggling hikers on their way to Refuge Cove. This spot, more sheltered than Sealers Cove, harboured some luxury yachts that gave my uncle something else to dream about: 'we'll do the trip with yachts...'

After resting for lunch we climbed a large park and descended to Little Waterloo Bay. That section was probably the hardest and the recurring stabs in my legs weren't helping. Our walk was delayed while my uncle administered some expert massage therapy to my legs. He stuck his elbow into pressure points on the tops of my legs while I lay on my stomach on a granite boulder, bellowing with pain. I should have been more suspicious of my uncle's 'expert' massage knowledge. He is an accountant after all. Surprisingly though, the elbow treatment worked and we were able to continue to Waterloo Bay. Although the weather had closed in on us again it was a wonderful sight.

At this point we said goodbye to the coast and set off cross-country, looking at the rocky slopes of Mt Wilson and picking out fern gullies on its slopes as we walked. It was a gradual but arduous uphill climb until we met the Telegraph Track six kilometres further on. Conversation had shifted from the beauty of the Prom to the pains in our feet and legs as we stumbled on to the beach at Oberon

Bay. The sky was dark and the wind pushed us sideways as we walked on, contemplating a further eight kilometres to the car.

'C'mon Uncle, you're a walking machine,' he grunted as we climbed up the Norman Bay track from the beach. I smiled but I was too tired to encourage myself in a similar manner. My feet and legs were numb and stiff—even the tiger snake on the side of the track failed to make us stop. We knew that our legs wouldn't get going again. Our last break had been at Little Waterloo Bay for water and it had been two-and-a-half hours since that interval. My legs had stopped screaming at me long ago and were simply aching and I felt light-headed.

As we rounded the cliffs and saw Norman Bay and Tidal River I expected to feel better but I soon discovered that the only thing that would make me feel better would be to stop walking. My uncle was now breaking into little runs and shouting motivational slogans.

Finally, watching him head up a small hill, shuffling painfully and singing, made something inside me snap. Suddenly my dead legs



Uncle, still looking fresh,
near Sealers Cove.

Eric Tlozek

lives in Shoreham, Victoria. He enjoys bushwalking and mountain biking. He is often found running along the beach with or without the dog and his younger sister. His uncle, Peter Hoefer, lives in Canberra.



were stretching, running past him into the camping ground. It was a spectacular finish, especially when I almost fell over as I ran to the car. My stunned and somewhat chagrined uncle emerged 30 seconds later bemoaning his lack of sprinting power.

'Cheer up, Uncle', I said. 'It was a challenge, not a race.'

We had just completed one of the State's best three-day walks in one punishing, nine-hour session. We'd passed through four different landscapes, all of them spectacular, in a day walk on steroids. The tracks are well marked and maintained and the sights couldn't have been better. We were sore, chafed and happy. Notch up another challenge completed. Perhaps my uncle's ideas aren't so bad although I haven't started chasing cows just yet. 

Freycinet Fun

The gem of the Tasmanian granite belt, by Peter Franklin

MY INTRODUCTION TO THE FREYCINET PENINSULA was a bit disappointing. A friend suggested that we go for a walk there, so we travelled up from Hobart on a Friday night and camped by the car. As an 18-year-old about to embark on my first real overnight bushwalk, I was up at the crack of dawn pestering my companion to start walking. Breakfast for me was uncooked bacon and about two hours later I began to feel ill and our walk had to be abandoned.

A few years elapsed before I returned and on this occasion I was so taken with the stunning scenery that I was hooked and have come back at least once—and often twice—a year ever since.

This slice of Tasmania is blessed with a belt of granite and some of it rises hundreds of metres above surrounding country. It lines up with Wilsons Promontory in Victoria and stretches over the islands of Bass Strait into north-east Tasmania. Anyone familiar with Wilsons Promontory can probably see the similarities: the spectacular peaks, the great slabs of rock, the sweeping beaches and small coves.

However, the Freycinet Peninsula is arguably more dramatic and scenic. It also has the advantage of being on the lee side of Tasmania and is splendid in autumn, winter

and spring. The Peninsula is just one part of Freycinet National Park—the northern section comprises Friendly Beaches and the surrounding hills with kilometres of beach backed by natural dunes. To the south is Schouten Island which has a rugged, cliff-lined granite eastern side. The western side is dolerite and is different in looks and vegetation.

The Freycinet Peninsula is the cornerstone; the first view of it is a sweeping bay backed by the Hazards, which rise straight from the bay. Further on are more granite peaks, the exquisitely beautiful Wineglass Bay, an isthmus with lagoons edged to the west by the golden sands of Hazards Beach. Coves lined with white beaches recede in the distance. The shapely Mt Freycinet overlooks all this splendour.

The landscape is not the only feature of the park to attract bushwalkers; it is also superb for wild flowers. Spring is the most bountiful but there seem to be flowers all year round as well as animals and birds in large numbers. Fortunately, problems caused by excessively tame possums seem to have abated in recent years since notices were put up asking people not to feed animals.

Tasmania is often thought of as a summer destination; even many locals think it is too cold to venture outdoors much in winter.

Below, the east coast of the Freycinet Peninsula from Gates Bluff.

All photos by Peter Franklin





Dave Tucker surveys the way ahead to Cape Forestier and Mt Graham from the Hazards.

The west and southern coasts and highlands bear the brunt of the westerlies and the sheltered east coast is quite mild. It usually has only a fifth of the average winter rainfall for the State. The winds are tempered on the sheltered east coast. If you visit in the middle of the year you have to get into your tent very early, which is off putting for many people but if you reach a camp-site early you can get used to it. By spring the extra daylight is quite pronounced.

In 1916 the Freycinet Peninsula was declared the first National Park in Tasmania, along with the delightful Mt Field. In those days places had to be very scenic to be eligible for National Park status. The area must have been a paradise away from the cold inland before white settlement and for the Aboriginal inhabitants who have left behind many middens sites, particularly behind beaches.

The French explorer Nicholas Baudin named the peninsula in 1802-03 after one

or both of the brothers Louis and Henri Freycinet, who were officers on the expedition. Within another 20 years sealing and whaling had taken their toll; the waters and

Pastoral and mining leases were taken in the area but the only legacies are the stone cottage at Cooks Beach and, on Schouten Island, remnant paddocks and rampant gorse. The weed is to be eliminated thanks to a joint venture between local rangers and volunteers.

'I was so taken with the stunning scenery that I was hooked'

sands of the bays became polluted and the whale population was wiped out. The waters and land have recovered but unfortunately the whales have not.

Access

Freycinet National Park is in the middle of the Tasmanian east coast on a peninsula jutting into the Tasman Sea. A variety of roads can be used to get there from Hobart and Launceston, the most direct take about two-and-a-half hours. A bus service operates between Hobart and Launceston. It stops at Bicheno and a connecting service runs from there to Coles Bay, at the entrance to the park.

Tracks are all signposted, so navigation is a minor issue. Given the compactness of the park and its low altitude, even off-track walking is unlikely to present problems for the modestly experienced. Good maps are available.

Water, camp-sites and facilities

Finding fresh water can sometimes be a problem in this area of relatively low rainfall, particularly in summer and early autumn. During late winter and spring there is usually ample flow in the creeks. The most reliable sources are Lagunta and Jimmys, neither of which I have ever seen dry. Graham and Eastern Creeks are also quite reliable.

The three main camp-sites with toilets are all at the southern ends of beaches. Hazards Beach has the most dependable water; Cooks relies on tank water from an old cottage. The cottage is not exactly five star but some people still opt to stay in it. The creek at the Wineglass Bay camp-site is dependent on flow from lagoons and after a dry period its water is undrinkable. At Hazards Beach obtain water from up Lagunta Creek, not from the small lagoon beside the tent sites. Schouten Island has camp-sites, a creek and tank water. Bush camping is possible elsewhere in the park but you must have knowledge of previous rainfall and seasonal water conditions.

Overnight walks

Although the park is very popular for walking, the overwhelming majority of visitors confine themselves to a small area, so the more distant parts are often relatively quiet. In the cooler months you may have the camp-sites to yourself.

The main overnight walks revolve around a track on the western side of the Freycinet Peninsula. The track climbs a peak of 500 metres and winds back along the eastern side. It can be done as a circuit in either direction, or as a return trip if you don't mind walking the same ground twice. Two days are required for this medium-grade walk but it is best as a three-day walk. If you have time to spare you can add some off-track components which take four or more days.

After many years' walking in the area I have concluded that it is best to begin with the track on the western side and I have described the walk in that direction. Fortunately, there

is only one car park so the start and finish are at the same point; at the end of the road at the foot of the Hazards.

Shortly after leaving the car you reach a junction; take the track that continues to Hazards Beach. The left junction is to Wineglass Bay and this track can be used on the walk's final leg. You'll reach Hazards Beach after about one-and-a-half hours of gently

light. This sandy and comparatively flat track skirts Mt Freycinet; you won't be sweating uphill with your head down, so take the time to drink in the scenery. After an hour of bush you are suddenly confronted with the brilliant whiteness of Cooks Beach. Before you step on to the beach a sign indicates the track up to Mts Freycinet and Graham. This is used for the return leg. Cooks is pleasantly shaped



Above, toughing it out on Passage Beach. Right, black swans on Saltwater Lagoon, Friendly Beaches.

undulating terrain round the base of Mt Mayson. It is a predominantly sandy track, interspersed with a few easy rocky sections and overlooks the waters of Great Oyster Bay for most of the journey. You'll pass several creeks but they should not be relied upon as even the biggest one may be dry.

Hazards Beach is usually fairly solid to walk on. Nevertheless it is nice to get to the end of this kilometre stretch of sand and arrive at the spacious Lagunta Creek campsite. About a third of the way along the 45-minute section is a sign indicating the Isthmus Track to Wineglass Bay but there is no need to take this side-trip as you'll reach the bay on the last day of the walk. Camp at Lagunta Creek, or continue for another hour and 20 minutes to Cooks Beach camp-site.

For anyone with an interest in wild flowers the thryptomene and other shrubs from Hazards to Cooks Beaches will be a high-

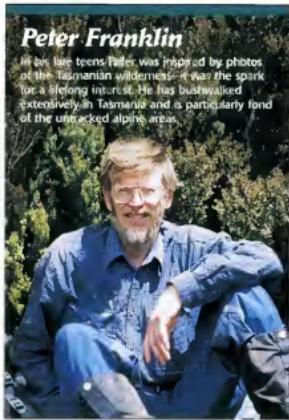


and it is only 20 minutes to the camp-site at the southern end—about the right length for beach walking!

It is very easy to laze about Cooks but near-by Bryans Beach is a shade under an hour away and beckons on the second day. At Bryans you will have great views of Schouten Island at the far side of the bay. Granite domes are at the back of the attractive Passage Beach. Walk to the lagoon at the end of Bryans Beach where there are little coves which are good for swimming. It is quite

Peter Franklin

In his late teens Peter was inspired by photos of the Tasmanian wilderness—it was the spark for a lifelong interest. He has bushwalked extensively in Tasmania and is particularly fond of the untracked alpine areas.



difficult to get to Passage Beach as the shore line is rocky and you may have to scrub bash. The effort is worth while if you have the energy as is the scramble to the domes of the Cape Degerando area.

On the final day find the track at the northern end of Cooks Beach for the ascent to Mt Graham. Initially it is easy walking over a sandy track through delightful heathland



The track now winds down to Wineglass Bay. The white beach curves to meet the peaks of the Hazards rising out of the bay. Walking time from the saddle to the bay is about two-and-a-half-hours. Although you'll be impressed by the stunning Wineglass Bay it is not easy to walk on the soft sand of the beach. After this 30-minute section, the heavily used track over a saddle in the Hazards takes about 45 minutes to the car park. Impressive stonework keeps this part of the track in good order and a lookout has been installed for a final view of the bay.

For anyone who doesn't mind off-track walking and is competent with navigation, this walk can be extended by spending time in the cliff-lined eastern part of the peninsula but be aware that water may be scarce.

Other walks

Freyycinet National Park has a lot of walks. If you're staying at Coles Bay, where you can camp just inside the park or in a range of accommodation, day walks are a major attraction. Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife lists the State's top day walks and Freycinet National Park has four of the 30 listed.

The very popular trip to Wineglass Bay with the option of returning by Hazards Beach takes about four or five hours. The three-hour return walk to Mt Amos, the most accessible of the Hazards, has excellent views over the park. It is best attempted in dry conditions. Walks along the top of the Hazards are an option but it is treacherous and steep in places and there are erosion problems. For strong walkers, a circuit over Mt Graham can be done when there are long daylight hours.

For those with a penchant for walking on pristine coastline, Friendly Beaches fits the bill. The dunes are in their natural state, free of marram grass, and you can wander for several hours all the way to Freshwater Lagoon. Several hundred black swans congregate

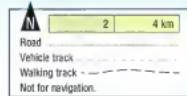
until you reach a creek and a small campsite. From here the track climbs steeply to Jimmys Creek at East Freycinet Saddle, followed by a gentler climb to a saddle between Mts Freycinet and Graham. It takes an hour to reach East Freycinet and a further 45 minutes to the saddle between the peaks. It is well worth dropping your pack and making the short ascent to Mt Freycinet. Then it is a shortish but steep climb to Mt Graham and a scenic and fairly level walk along the crest before you reach Graham Creek.

ate at Saltwater Lagoon along with pelicans, ducks and other water birds. If you go especially gently and quietly the wallabies won't disappear and the swans will acknowledge your presence with their throaty calls. There aren't any signposts to the lagoon so be alert for the entrance. The smell of bird droppings may warn you.

There isn't a ferry service to Schouten Island but fishing boats sometimes take visitors. A number of walks can be done but there isn't a track network



Freyycinet Peninsula



During recent years commercial adventure tour operators have realised the potential of the area. One company offers a four day trip that includes Schouten Island and a walk from the south of Freycinet Peninsula to Bluestone Bay and Friendly Beaches for a final night at a luxury lodge in the bush. Another company offers day walks with accommodation in cabins at Coles Bay.

Freyycinet National Park may be the jewel but there are further opportunities for bush-walking and adventure tourism on the eastern seaboard of Tasmania. Not only has the district the potential to be a Mecca for outdoors activities, it could also be a pressure valve for Tasmania's very fragile World Heritage Area.

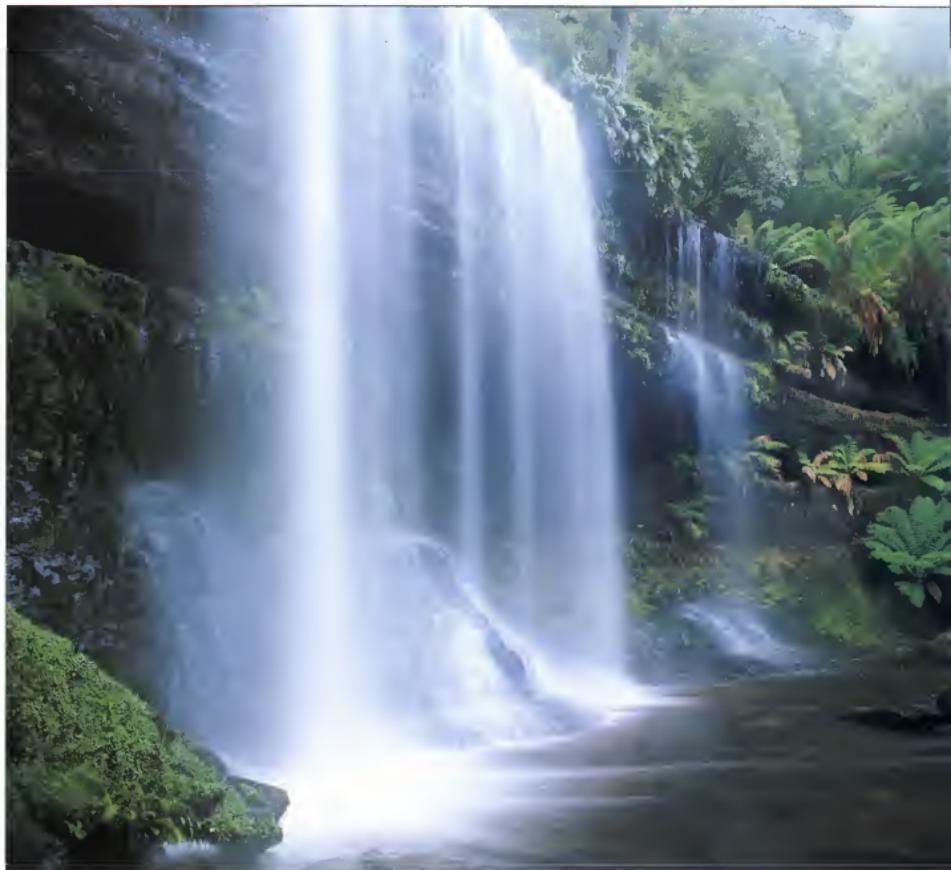
Apart from other National Parks, the presently unprotected Eastern Tiers is a huge, untramped area. This lovely eucalypt woodland has rugged gorges, clear streams and river valleys and is coveted by forestry interests at present. I am convinced that a variety of walks, perhaps including some serviced huts, could be viable.

Within the park the walking opportunities on the Freycinet Peninsula are well catered for but walks from Bicheno to Coles Bay by Friendly Beaches would have considerable appeal if the appropriate infrastructure were to be developed. Just on the other side of Bicheno, the Douglas-Apsley National Park could be linked with this beautiful area.



Tasmanian moods

A land of wild beauty, by Angus Munro



*The timeless and ethereal beauty of Russell Falls,
Mt Field National Park.*



*A place for reflection; Lake Skinner,
Snowy Range, South-west Tasmania.*



*Viewed from Hartz Peak, Mt Wellington
floats on a hazy sea.*

Angus Munro, a born and bred Queenslander, has been sidetracked in Tasmania for some years. Driven into the wilderness by the lack of rugby telecasts in the Apple Isle, he indulges in bushwalking, climbing, diving, and occasional study.





METZELER Thermo Systems Self-inflating Mattresses

- high-quality foam core and complex double-film-lamination for longer durability
- lightweight air-channel system
- non-slip surface
- quality metal cold-safe valve
- includes storage bag and repair-kit
- made in Germany
- exceptional value



Grant Minervini Agencies

Email info@gmagencies.com.au

Ph 1800 882 058



What kind of **man** are you?
Strap on the new Super Tool 200, from the multi-tool experts at Leatherman. All ten blades lock and release quickly. Handles are contoured for greater comfort. So whether you're on the job site or headed for outdoor adventure, you can be sure the Super Tool 200 will get things handled.

SUPER TOOL 200

SPECS

- HELDER/WOOD FILE
- ASPHALT PLIERS
- WIRE CUTTERS
- HARD-WIRE CUTTERS
- CLIP-POINT KNIFE
- SEPARATED KNIFE
- WOOD SAW
- METAL/WOOD FILE
- 8 MM/22 CM SCREWDRIVER
- SCREWDRIVER
- 12 MM SCREWDRIVER
- PHILIPS SCREWDRIVER
- ELECTRICAL CLIMPER
- WIRE STRIPPER
- AWL/PUNCH

ZEN For your nearest Leatherman stockist, contact Australian distributor:
Zen Imports Pty Ltd Telephone: 1800 064 200
www.zenimports.com.au

maximum comfort

PAIN RELIEF

response harness

proven in the world's extremes

Fairydown

Demand Comfort

Because bushwalking is for all seasons



PALLIN

Vista
Rainshell

- ◆ Keeps you dry (25% more breathable than Classic GORE-TEX® fabric)
- ◆ Allows you natural freedom of movement
- ◆ Lightweight and compact
- ◆ Designed in Australia to weather the world



Just because the weather changes doesn't mean your comfort level has to. The **Pallin Vista**, in men's and women's versions, has been designed to perform in all conditions. Stormtech XCR GORE-TEX material, patented Watergate closure, generous length and adjustable storm hood are GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOU DRY®. Articulated sleeves and double-ended zippers allow you to move more freely. Handwarmer and water-resistant map pockets are added for comfort and convenience. Weighing in at around 750g, it even rolls into its hood for storage.

Stores in: Sydney • Miranda • Parramatta • Katoomba
Melbourne • Ringwood • Adelaide • Canberra • Jindabyne
Fortitude Valley • Hobart • Launceston • Perth
Mail Order 1800 805 398 • Website: www.paddypallin.com.au

Pine Valley, Tasmania. Eddie Delane

Paddy Pallin

Cunninghams Gap to Mt Castle

Spectacular ridge walking in south-east Queensland, by *John Daly*



Harold Charles surveys the eastern landscape from the ridge between Mt Castle and Hole-in-the-Wall. Both photos by John Daly

THIS WORLD HERITAGE LISTED AREA HAS an almost unbroken line of peaks, ridges and escarpments that extend north-south on the edge of the Scenic Rim. There aren't any recognised tracks leading to the escarpment from the east due to the steepness of the Rampsarts but a succession of ridges and valleys from the west provide access for walkers.

Vegetation along the range varies from open eucalypt forest on the exposed, drier slopes to thick, impenetrable rainforest. Moun-

tain heath vegetation flourishes on rocky ridges and prolific displays of rock orchids and giant spear lilies are along the cliff-edges in spring.

Tracks and routes lead to all the major features but many traverse rugged, inhospitable terrain and should only be attempted by fit, experienced walkers with good navigation skills. This two-day walk from Cunningham's Gap to Mt Castle is one of the Main Range National Park's classic walks.

When to go

Off-track walking in the Main Range is only recommended during the cooler months, usually from April to September. Winter nights are cool (cold by Queensland standards) and the days are usually warm and sunny. Walking is uncomfortable in summer due to high temperatures and there is little surface water so you'll have to carry enough for two days.

Castle



Safety

Moss-covered boulders, precipitous cliffs and steep, grassy slopes must be traversed. Good scrambling skills are required for the rock slabs between Hole-in-the-Wall and Boars Head. Caution is required on the razor-back ridge from Boars Head to Mt Castle, especially when carrying a large pack. The final descent from Mt Castle is steep and a rope is extremely useful for lowering packs and possibly to belay the less confident. Naturally, the knowledge how to use it safely is essential.

Further reading

Classic Wild Walks of Australia, by Robert Rankin; *Take A Walk in Queensland's National Parks, Southern Zone*, by John & Lyn Daly.

Permits

Bush camping permits are required. They cost \$3.85 a person a night. Contact the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service at Cunningham's Gap for details. Phone (07) 4666 1133, fax (07) 4666 1297. The Main Range is a fuel-stove-only area. Check with QPWS regarding the availability of water before you start an off-track walk in the park.

Access

A car shuttle is necessary: drive west from Brisbane on the Cunningham Highway to Aratula. Turn right on to the Rosewood-Aratula road and travel 14.7 kilometres, then turn left through a double steel gate near the tree line. Drive a further two kilometres through four gates to a barbed-wire fence

the walk AT A GLANCE

Grade	Medium-hard
Length	Two days
Distance	23 kilometres
Type	Scrambling with mountain scenery
Region	South-east Queensland
Nearest town	Aratula
Start/finish	Cunningham's Gap/Mt Castle foothills
Maps	Sunmap <i>Cunningham's Gap</i> 1:25 000; Sunmap <i>Townson</i> 1:25 000
Best time	April–September
Special points	Main Range is a fuel-stove-only area

at the park boundary. Four-wheel-drive vehicles can continue for two kilometres across three shallow creeks to a clearing (GR 425083). The northern buttress of Mt Castle is visible from this clearing. Leave one vehicle here, return to the highway and continue west for 19 kilometres to a car park at Cunningham's Gap.

The walk

Follow the Mt Cordeaux track uphill from the eastern end of the car park through lush rainforest. After about 45 minutes of steady climbing you'll pass a clump of spear lilies near the mouth of an abandoned goldmine. In the 1930s two brothers were duped with samples of 'fool's gold' and spent several years digging this shaft before they discovered that they had been hoaxed.

Five minutes from the mine a side track leads to Mt Cordeaux Lookout and its spectacular spear lilies. Return to the main track and head west along the southern face of Mt Cordeaux to an exposed, rocky ridge. Continue uphill through rainforest to another track junction. Head left through a tangle of moss-covered trees to Bare Rock where you can trace your route along the Ramparts to Mt Castle.

A well-defined track descends north from the end of Bare Rock to a saddle, then climbs past two clearings and fallen trees to the top of the next ridge. The rainforest canopy becomes much thicker as you descend through walking-stick palms towards a deep gully where loose rocks slow your progress. Descend steeply towards the bed of a creek, about two kilometres from Bare Rock. Although it isn't listed as an 'official' water source, there is usually a trickle of water in this creek even when Laidley Creek is dry.

Many people have become disoriented here—they head diagonally uphill to the north-west and open forest rather than staying close to the escarpment. After a long, steep climb you'll reach a camp-site on a knoll (GR 387022). The track then descends steeply through a tangle of liana vines to another saddle and the first of a series of ridge crests. After skirting left round a dish-shaped depression, head back towards the edge of the escarpment and continue steeply uphill until you reach a second camp-site (GR 396042). Look out for stinging trees as the track levels, then descends towards Sylvesters Lookout.

A more distinct rocky track descends to a gully before climbing steeply and becoming level. The track swings sharply left at a point where a huge liana vine hangs from the canopy. The track straight ahead ends at a rocky bluff with poor views.

Continue on the top of the ridge and look for an obvious (false) track leading left (downhill) into a gully. This track has been forged by a procession of geographically embarrassed bushwalkers. The correct track swings right, crossing an arched, fallen log. An obvious track now descends on the right side of the ridge through open eucalypt forest with thick, grassy ground cover and tall

SEAL LINE[®] Baja™ Bags



Proven on rivers, lakes, and oceans around the world, Baja Bags are versatile and durable. Made with 20-ounce vinyl sides and a heavy-duty 34-ounce bottom to resist punctures and abrasion, they are made to withstand just about any abuse.

Mother Nature, or your crew, can dish out. Our Dry Seal™ roll-down closure keeps the elements out, and the attached D-ring will secure the bag inside your raft, boat or luggage rack. Available in 7 sizes from 4.5 L to 54 L.

SEAL LINE[®] See Bags™

Take the guesswork out of what's packed inside. See Bags are made with durable 19-ounce vinyl that is transparent to help you find what you need quickly. Bags close with our watertight Dry Seal™ roll-down closure and have a D-ring attachment, and heavy-duty bottom. Available in 4 sizes from 4.5 L to 32 L.



Distributed by Spelean Pty Ltd. Call 1800 634 853 for your nearest stockist.
<http://www.spelean.com.au> <http://www.cascadedesigns.com>

Packtowl[®] is the original high-performance camping and travel towel that makes terry cloth towels obsolete for outdoor use. Lightweight and compact, Packtowl fits easily in your pack, duffle, or travel kit. Besides keeping you clean, Packtowl comes in handy for plenty of other reasons around camp. Use it to wipe up puddles on your tent floor, insulate and pad gear inside your pack, and provide emergency first aid dressing. It doubles as a dish cloth, pot holder, and sweat-absorbing bandana.

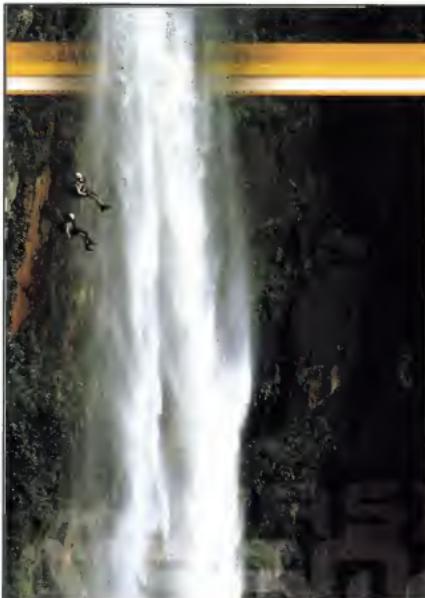
Now available in a colourful new print, Packtowl is thicker and more durable than off-brand wannabe towels. Best of all, it has superior absorbency. The large Packtowl soaks up a full litre of water. Wring it out to release 90% of its absorbed liquid, and Packtowl is immediately ready to soak up more.

Hang it in the breeze by its attached snap loop to air dry, or tumble dry at home. Packtowl is machine- or hand-washable and becomes softer with each washing.



PackTOWL[®]

Distributed by Spelean Pty Ltd. Call 1800 634 853 for your nearest stockist.
<http://www.spelean.com.au> <http://www.cascadedesigns.com>



Ask for your PETZL/charlet moser catalogue from your favourite outdoors store now. It's FREE.

Or email cat02@petzl.com.au

Or call 1800 634 853.



charlet moser

Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd. Ph. (02) 9955 9800 Fax (02) 9955 9811
e-mail petzl@spelean.com.au <http://www.petzl.com> <http://spelean.com.au>

grass-trees to the Laidley Creek Falls campsite. A short track continues north from the camp-site to an exposed bluff where clumps of rock orchids line the cliff face. There are great views into the Laidley valley and across to the imposing massif of Mt Castle.

Day two

The track from the camp-site descends west to Laidley Creek. When this creek is dry you may find water in shallow pools upstream. Sidle downhill along the edge of a grass-covered ridge before swinging sharply downhill (right). Ignore the track that continues to the base of the falls and turn right again towards the head of the falls.

Cross Laidley Falls and follow an obvious route along the base of the cliffline to Hole-in-the-Wall. This eroded hole in the cliff-face

can be spotted from the Cunningham Highway late in the afternoon when the sun has dipped below the horizon.

After exploring the hole scramble down a rock slab and walk along the north side of the cliff. A grass covered ridge and a rocky razor-back lead to the summit of Boars Head. There are stunning views south along the Main Range Ramparts past Bare Rock and Mt Cordeaux to Mt Mitchell and Spicers Peak. Mt Superbus, southern Queensland's highest mountain, is on the horizon.

From Boars Head a very narrow ridge leads towards the buttress of Mt Castle. At

the north-eastern end of the mountain you will see the clearing where you left your vehicle. Walk about ten metres back from the knoll to find the descent route. A rope is a definite asset at this point. (See under 'Safety', above.) About 20 metres below the summit a ledge provides some respite before you descend the rest of the cliff. You may see the elusive brush-tailed rock wallaby around this point.

From the base of the cliffs head north-east along the edge of a steep, grassy slope to avoid a rainforest choked gully on the left. Loose rock and scree slow your progress as



Late afternoon light adds a bluish tinge to the trees as Ann Hill, left, and Lyn Daly enjoy an almost level section of the ridge; with just one more steep descent to go!

the end of this section the track skirts the eastern side of the ridge and traverses the head of an extremely steep, grassy slope to the top of the ridge. A short walk now leads to the cliffs below Mt Castle.

Contour the western edge of the buttress until the Mt Castle saddle becomes obvious, then swing east (uphill) to the saddle. A distinct track leads south (uphill) to a great lunch spot on the summit. It's worth exploring a track south from the summit to a rocky pinnacle with great views back along the eastern face of the mountain, especially when the rock orchids are in bloom.

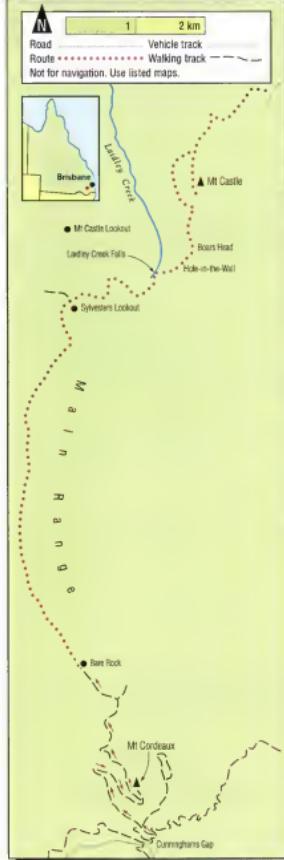
After lunch walk north along the eastern edge of the plateau. When you reach a knoll

you work your way down (GR 418079).

Walk left (downhill) beside an old fence. About 20 metres before you reach the saddle climb through the fence and clamber straight down an extremely steep, grassy ridge to a gully choked with lantana. A series of animal tracks seem to lead through the lantana but the easiest route is to bash your way straight through the lantana for about 20 metres to a service road. Turn left and walk along the road to your vehicle. 

John Daly and his wife Lyn have written five bushwalking guidebooks. They have turned their passion for conservation, bushwalking and travel into an occupation that allows them to spend months at a time working (walking) in the bush.

Cunningham's Gap to Mt Castle



Get into the
Outdoors With
the Experts



Outdoor Short Courses

Enrol now for short courses in

- Kayaking
- Climbing
- Rafting
- River Rescue
- First Aid

Successful completion may lead to credits for some Holmesglen Recreation course modules.

For more information or to enrol call **9564 6205** or **9564 6293**
585 Waverley Rd, Glen Waverley

www.holmesglen.vic.edu.au



Rarer than the thylacine?



'Sold-out' issues of *Wild*

Originally thought to be extinct, we have unearthed a minor treasure trove of previously sold-out issues of *Wild*. As the numbers are extremely limited, you'll have to move quickly.

Nos 2, 5, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64 and 67.

\$7.99 each. Some copies may be slightly damaged.

Phone
Wild Publications Pty Ltd
on (03) 9826 8483.

a hard rain's gonna fall ...



It can get pretty ugly out there — the weather, that is.

Clouds start brewing, blackening, a chill rolls through, an ominous warning of what's ahead — then the heavens open up.

No problem.

You can be comfortable and totally dry. **Hydronaute™** waterproof breathable fabric by Mont Adventure Equipment outperforms the rest.

Tested to extremes, and now used exclusively throughout the Mont shellwear range.

You can rely on **Hydronaute™**.



See our comprehensive
range of products online
www.mont.com.au

Mont Adventure Equipment The Australian company with over 20 years of manufacturing excellence



WILD COUNTRY

Seek adventure

WILD COUNTRY outdoor clothing, footwear and camping equipment available at **Ray's Outdoors**
Ph: 1800 641 867 www.raysoutdoors.com.au

essential for the great escape

Plan your next Great Escape with the new Magellan SporTrak Series.
Let the SporTrak take care of the navigation, you just enjoy yourself!!

SporTrak Features:

- Waterproof + Floats
- Data Input/Output + 500 Waypoints
- 20 Reversible Routes with 30 Legs
- 2000 Point Backtrack Function
- Best Fishing/Hunting Times
- Compose + Trip Odometer
- Sunrise/Sunset Times
- Moon/Times/Phase
- Speed + Distance

MAGELLAN™
GPS SYSTEMS

Worldwide Cities Location Database with Marine Models. 1GB built in memory for downloading data from Magellan DataSend software. Including cities, campgrounds and more.

MapSend™ 2GB Australian Base Map of major cities, highways, ports, major waterways, airports & coastline, with additional 4MB of memory for downloading detailed maps from MapSend Streets software.

MapSend™ 23MB Australian Base Map of cities, towns, suburbs, highways, main roads, waterways, parks, coastline, with additional 23MB of memory for downloading detailed maps & points of interest from MapSend Streets software.

For retail outlet locations - Freecall 1800 644 033 or Email info@magellan.com.au or visit us at www.magellan.com.au

Lerderderg Gorge

Remote walking on Melbourne's doorstep, by Greg Caire

RARELY IS IT POSSIBLE TO EXPERIENCE REMOTE walking on the doorstep of a major Australian city. Yet less than an hour's drive from Melbourne's busy central business district, the 300 metre deep gorge of the Lerderderg River lies quietly awaiting walkers who are prepared to do a little wading and scrub-bashing. The most striking feature of this walk is the relative isolation—a wilderness experience in Melbourne's backyard. There are also many ruins and remnants of the area's gold-mining past, which add a little historical richness to the excursion. The gorge is in the boundaries of the Lerderderg State Park, a 14 250 hectare reserve between the Wombat State Forest to the north and the town of Bacchus Marsh to the south. The walking route passes along the banks and bed of the Lerderderg River and entails many wet crossings, some wading through deep pools, and regular encounters with very thick vegetation. As a result it is recommended for experienced walkers only. Three days are needed to complete the walk as described although it is possible to do it in two if river levels are very

low (usually in mid-summer or very early winter). Due to high flows in the wetter months (in winter and early spring) the trip may take four days and include some steep climbs out of the gorge and back in to avoid deep waterholes and a few swims. Whichever way

it can be very hot at this time of year and you need to keep an eye on the weather before you start out. Sudden electrical storms that dump rain in the Wombat State Forest and on surrounding plateaux can cause the river to rise rapidly to dangerous levels with-

The walk AT A GLANCE

Grade	Hard
Length	Three days
Distance	35 kilometres
Type	Vegetated gorge and river, forest
Region	Central Victoria
Nearest town	Blackwood or Golden Point
Start/finish	Start at Golden Point, finish at Mackenzies Flat or Bacchus Marsh
Maps	<i>Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges</i> 1:35 000 Meridian Productions; <i>Trentham, Greenvale and Bullengrook</i> 1:25 000 Vicmap sheets
Best time	Early June or January to March (low rainfall months)
Special points	Rising river levels after rain can make the gorge unsafe. Scrub along the river is very thick and it is best to walk downstream (in the direction bushes lie after the action of floodwater). Flowering blackwood wattle in spring is abundant and very beautiful.



Wet feet are a prospect in the Lerderderg Gorge. Both photos by Greg Caire

you look at it, this is a high-quality walk and you are unlikely to meet another person.

When to go

Travel along the gorge is generally quicker and easier in the summer months (December to February) as river levels are lower; however,

out warning. In early winter (June) river levels may be low but days are cooler for walking and nights are cold.

Safety

This is a difficult walk and should not be attempted by inexperienced parties. While

navigation is straightforward (as you spend most walking time within the confines of the gorge), sudden rises in river level may necessitate a hasty exit up steep-sided valleys, and the surrounding ridge systems are convoluted and difficult to navigate. This can make escape to higher ground confusing and careful navigation is required. Check weather forecasts before you leave. Also keep an eye out for brown- and tiger snakes when bush bashing, particularly in warmer weather. Areas containing ruins have deep mine shafts nearby, so be careful when exploring.

Maps and further reading

The Lerderderg and Werribee Gorges 1:35 000 Map Guide by Meridian Productions is the best general map, and covers the entire walk. Vicmap sheets Trentham, Greenvale and Bullengarook at 1:25 000 are also useful. Suggested further reading includes: *60 Walks in Central Victoria's Gold Fields and Spa Country* by Tyrone Thomas, Hill of Content, 1995; *Weekend Walks Around Melbourne* by Glenn Tempest, Open Spaces Publishing, 2002.

Permits

At present permits are not required for walking in the Lerderderg State Park. Bush camping is permitted.

Access

Take the Western Freeway from Melbourne to the Greenvale-Trentham road exit, which is on your left about 70 kilometres from the city. Turn right and continue to Blackwood, and again turn right on to the Golden Point road, following it to Golden Point and the start of the Byers Back Track (part of the walking route known as the Great Dividing Trail). Park here. A car shuttle or an arranged lift will be required to bring you from the end of the walk at Mackenzies Flat or Bacchus Marsh back to this point.

The walk

The 35 kilometre route descends almost the entire length of the gorge carved by the Lerderderg River. It is best to do the walk from north to south as described, following the river flow downstream and exiting at Mackenzies Flat. This is because thick vegetation along the river valley has been pushed down in this direction by flood-water and is easier to negotiate from the north.

Continue down Byers Back Track from the end of the Golden Point road through dry eucalypt forest and along old water-races used during the gold-mining era to O'Briens Crossing, about ten kilometres from the car park. Here is an official Parks Victoria camping ground (the only established and maintained camp-site in the park) and a toilet block. Cross the road and small causeway



Early morning deep in the gorge.



Lerderderg Gorge

across the river to pick up the East Walk track (signposted), which heads downstream along the Lerderderg River. After some pleasant walking through blackwood wattle and manna-gums, you'll reach a large flat area surrounded by large piles of alluvial stones. This area, known loosely as 'Mine Camp', was formerly a large-scale gold-mining operation and makes a convenient campsite for the first night. In the early morning and late evening it is common to hear the loud screeching of sulphur-crested and gang-gang cockatoos in this area.

Day two

Rising early is recommended as today there is some of the most challenging walking of the trip. Continue along the East Walk track for about two kilometres, rising above river level and ascending a small ridge to an intersection with the Spanish Onion Track. From here, descend steeply south-east back to the Lerderderg River (some navigation is

Your feet are ugly enough. Don't subject them to poorly fitted boots.

Boot fitting is an art. The human foot varies in size and shape so much, choosing boots is best left in the hands of experts. At Ajays in Heathmont and Eastern Mountain Centre in Hawthorn, your feet are measured and visually assessed. Then our experienced staff recommend



ajays
SNOW COUNTRY SPORTS

115 Canterbury Road, Heathmont, Vic 3135.
Phone (03) 9720 4647. Fax (03) 9720 2538.

the most suitable brands and styles for your needs. With our independent advice and an extensive selection of walking boots from around the world, you can't put a foot wrong. We guarantee it!

EMC

Eastern Mountain Centre

654b Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, Vic 3122.
Phone (03) 9818 1544. Fax (03) 9818 1545.

Wild GUIDES YOUR BUSH POCKET-PARTNERS

These booklets will guide you to Australia's best wild places, and give advice you can *use* in the bush.

All booklets are covered with clear plastic. Only \$8.20 each (\$8.50 overseas—airmail).

Available from leading outdoors shops or direct from Wild Publications, the publisher of *Wild*, Australia's wilderness adventure magazine.

Receive a free booklet of your choice when you subscribe to *Wild*. See the subscription advertisement in this issue.

Wild
Australia's Wilderness Adventure Magazine

Wild Publications Pty Ltd,
PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.
Phone (03) 9826 8483,
fax (03) 9826 3787,
email wild@wild.com.au
Web site www.wild.com.au



With plastic cover



With plastic cover



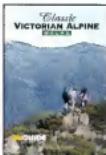
With plastic cover



Free in *Wild* no 4



Free in *Wild* no 80



With plastic cover



With plastic cover



Free in *Wild* no 87



With plastic cover



Free in *Wild* no 54



Free in *Wild* no 77



With plastic cover

New Horizons... Inspired Vision.

Nikon's superior optics and design innovations will ensure a superb viewing experience.



Monarch series

- Waterproof and fog-free
- Rubber armoring for shock resistance and comfortable grip
- Robust, light glass fibre polycarbonate die-cast body



Fieldscopes & Spotting Scopes

- Five water resistant models
- Spotting Scopes are rubber armoured for shock resistance
- Photo and digital camera attachments available



DX Adventurer II series

- Aspherical eyepiece lenses eliminate image distortion
- Lightweight, durable, carbon-fibre body
- Four models including one zoom model

Nikon

It's your life

Enquiries: 1300 366 499
www.maxwell.com.au



Distributed by Outdoor Agencies Pty Ltd
Call (02) 9438 2266 for nearest stockist
sales@outdooragencies.com.au
www.lizardfootwear.com

required) passing old mine shafts on the way. The formed track ends here and scrub-bashing begins. It's also possible to follow the river from directly behind the evening stop at Mine Camp to this point; however, some swimming and wading will be required and the bush at river level along this stretch is very thick.

Dense gorse and native species in the riverbed and on its banks will be the bane of your existence for the next two days. Gorse is a very spiky, introduced Scottish plant brought to Australia by miners and used to make hedges. You will learn to dislike it! Continue down the river, crossing where necessary and taking the paths of least resistance through the thick patches of scrub. The gorge is deep and the feeling of isolation is remarkable considering how close you are to Melbourne. Large blue gums and manna-gums line the river, and koalas, kangaroos, swamp wallabies and wombats are all common. You will also see the odd pack of feral goats—and the erosion caused by their passage on steep slopes. Take particular care with the weather for the next two days. The gorge is prone to rapid increases in the river level when rain falls in its catchment. You will also spend a lot of time walking on slippery, polished river stones, so be careful not to twist an ankle. Where you camp depends on your progress down the river. There aren't any recommended sites, so after about eight hours of battling gorse and wading through the river, choose a flat spot (quite a challenge!) as high above river level as possible, and camp. You will see several sites on both banks during the day.

Day three

Continue downstream, passing the occasional mine ruin, water race and alluvial gold washing area. Beyond the Ah Kow Ruin and Mine the gorse and thick bush thin out, making forward progress less of an ordeal; the gorge becomes wider and the many pools along the river's course are a little deeper. By early afternoon you will have reached the dam wall of the Lerderberg Weir. Cross it and descend the steps on its downstream side, continuing down-river past many sandy beaches. Water levels can be quite high here after significant rain and wading is unavoidable. There are some spectacular rocky buttresses in this area, more reminiscent of the red sandstone of the Gammon Ranges in South Australia than the foothills of the Great Dividing Range near Melbourne. Approximately four kilometres from Mackenzies Flat, there is a walking track on the north side of the river. Follow it to the picnic area and the finish of the walk. Pick up your lift here (Mackenzies Flat is in mobile phone range), or walk a further eight kilometres to Bacchus Marsh. ☺

Starting as a wide-eyed schoolboy in the Blue Mountains near Sydney, for two decades Greg Coate has been climbing, cross-country skiing and sea kayaking in various parts of the world. The happiness and warmth of poor, rural peoples around the globe are a constant source of inspiration to him.



"TO REACH AMBITIOUS GOALS
REQUIRES METICULOUS
PLANNING AND STRONG
DETERMINATION."

PIONEER DEUTER

Roald Amundsen won the race to the South Pole because of exact planning, superior performance and an unwavering desire to succeed.

The Deuter AIRCONTACT carrying system is the winning result of our ambition to create an efficient, breathable back system for large-capacity hiking backpacks. Detailed design work resulted in a full range of rucksacks (45-85 litres) which provide superior performance. Deuter AIRCONTACT packs are fully size-adjustable (including slim-fit version), and offer excellent ventilation, heavy-duty construction with lifetime warranty, reinforced waistbelts, and hydration-bladder compatibility.

Deuter is there to help you meet outdoor challenges.



Velo-Vita Pty Ltd
Ph (02) 9895 7744
service@velovita.com.au
www.deuter.com

DEUTER - THE BACKPACK SPECIALIST



GARMONT
CHALLENGE THE ELEMENTS

NEW R2 LITE TRAIL STYLES

R² Spine System



R² Najevi - Silver/Red
Men & Women



R² Najevi - Silver/Grey
Men & Women



R² Montello - Charcoal
Men only



R² Flash GTX - Charcoal
Men & Women

add
anatomically directed design

Footwear design which adheres more closely to the human form and biomechanics. ADD™ relaxes the foot, maximises the ability of the foot and leg to stabilize and cushion impact, freeing your muscles to reach the goal, not fight the fit of your boot.



support
differential
metatarsal pads



stability
lateral tongue
post



control
asymmetrical
closure
system



comfort
first metatarsal
accommodation

Experience the Garmont ADD™ range at your local outdoors retailer.
For your nearest Garmont stockist contact Sitro Group Australia Pty Ltd (03) 9543 9533 or www.sitro.com.au

Mt Buller...

The place to study
for a career in the
Outdoor Recreation
Industry

If you are seeking a
career in the outdoor
recreation industry,
this is a unique
opportunity to study,
work and live in the
alpine resort of
Mt Buller.



Australian Alpine Institute
PO Box 58, Mt Buller, 3723. 71 056 764 080
Tel: (03) 5733 7000



TASMAP

for adventurous bushwalkers

Explore Tasmania's unique wilderness safely.
Tasmap National Park Maps include detailed
notes describing track conditions, distances,
times, safety, history, flora, fauna and geology.

Tasmap also offers a range of series maps
covering the state at 1:250 000, 1:100 000
and 1:25 000.



Maps are available from Service Tasmania outlets, Tasmap agents and bookshops statewide.
Orders direct to TASMAP:
GPO Box 44, Hobart Tasmania, 7001, Australia
Ph: + 61 3 6233 7741
Fax: + 61 3 6233 6071
e: US.Sales@dpiwe.tas.gov.au
w: www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au



Distributed by Outdoor Agencies Pty Ltd
Call (02) 9438 2266 for nearest stockist
sales@outdooragencies.com.au
www.lizardfootwear.com

ROMAN

Australia's Leading Brand



ROMAN offers the widest range of sleeping bags in the Australian market. With over 35 years' experience specialising in sleeping bag manufacturing, and over 60 different models to choose from, Roman is sure to have a sleeping bag to suit your requirements.

Trek Advance Series



YKK



- Ultra Lite Trek +3° C
- Lite Trek 0° C
- Trek -5° C
- Super-Trek -10° C

Features:

- Diamond Tex™ Ripstop shell
- Thermaspace™ lining - designed to reflect body heat
- Dupont® Thermolite Plus filling
- Duraflex® quick-release buckles for easy storage
- YKK auto-lock zippers



Roman Extremelite Series

SILKTEX™

Insufil Thermo



- Extremelite +5° C
- Extremelite Zero 0° C
- Extremelite Sub-Zero -5° C

Features:

- Ripstop nylon shell
- Silktx™ lining
- Insufil Thermo bonded fibre
- Lightweight and compact
- Ideal for backpacking and bushwalking

Big Series

HILLOFT



- Swag Bag 0° C
- Big Man Hood -2° C
- Bushman Hood -6° C
- Big Man 0° C
- Bushman -4° C

Features:

- Large and roomy family-camping models
- 90 cm wide x 190 cm long
- Cotton or flannelette lining
- Ideal for swags, caravan, 4WD or general camping
- All models can be joined to form a double

ALL ROMAN SLEEPING BAGS ARE SOLD WITH A LIFETIME ZIPPER GUARANTEE*.

*Freight to and from the factory is at customer expense.

Our temperature ratings have been tried and tested within the field and under laboratory conditions. However, temperature ratings are a guide only and vary from person to person. It is assumed that in cool conditions the user will wear thermal underwear, have a quality camping mat and be in a tent or like shelter.

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information or a free catalogue, please call ROMAN Head Office on ph (02) 9516 5150 / fax (02) 9516 4757
Web: www.roman.com.au e-mail: info@roman.com.au

ROMAN AGENTS:

NSW/ACT Colin Hutchinson	0417 478227	SA Mutual Agencies	(08) 8410 7477	TAS Waratah.....	(03) 6331 3682
VIC Victorian Outdoor.....	(03) 9431 4990	WA Jackson Outdoor	0402 056749	QLD Don Campbell.....	0413 616 330

Down sleeping-bags

Jim Graham plumps 'em up

Wild Gear Surveys: What they are and what they're not

The purpose of Wild Gear Surveys is to assist readers in purchasing specialist outdoors equipment of the quality and with the features most appropriate for their needs; and to save them time and money in the process.

The cost of 'objective' and meaningful testing is beyond the means not only of Wild, but of the Australian outdoors industry in general and we are not aware of such testing being regularly carried out by an outdoors magazine anywhere in the world. Similarly, given the number of products involved, field testing is beyond the means of Australia's outdoors industry. Wild Gear Surveys summarise information, collate and present it in a convenient and readily comparable form, with guidelines and advice to assist in the process of wise equipment selection.

Surveyors are selected for their knowledge of the subject and their impartiality. Surveys are checked and verified by an independent referee, and reviewed by Wild's editorial staff. Surveys are based on the items' availability and specifications at the time of the relevant issue's production; ranges and specifications may change later. Before publication each manufacturer/distributor is sent a summary of the surveyor's findings regarding the specifications of their products for verification.

Some aspects of surveys, such as the assessment of value and features—and especially the inclusion/exclusion of certain products—entail a degree of subjective judgement on the part of the surveyor, the referee and Wild, space being a key consideration.

'Value' is based primarily upon price relative to features and quality. A product with more elaborate or specialised features may be rated more highly by someone whose main concern is not price.

An important criterion for inclusion is 'wide availability'. To qualify, a product must usually be stocked by a number of specialist outdoors shops in the central business districts of the major Australian cities. With the recent proliferation of brands and models, and the constant ebb and flow of their availability, 'wide availability' is becoming an increasingly difficult concept to pin down.

Despite these efforts to achieve accuracy, impartiality, comprehensiveness and usefulness, no survey is perfect. Apart from the obvious human elements that may affect assessment, the quality, materials and specifications of any product may vary markedly from batch to batch and even from sample to sample. It is ultimately the responsibility of readers to determine what is best for their particular circumstances and for the use they have in mind for gear reviewed.

FOR A DOWN SLEEPING-BAG TO COMPLY with its job description it must trap enough warm air to insulate its occupant from the cold, external air. The bag should effect this basic function without causing the occupant to shiver or sweat excessively.

Just as a single pair of boots may be comfortable for one wearer and torture for another, a sleeping bag should be matched to the dimensions and metabolic rate of the user as well as to the temperature and conditions in which it is to be used. It is the occupant who produces the heat, not the sleeping-bag.

I have attempted to short-list a range of sleeping-bags suitable for three-four season bushwalking and widely available in the specialist outdoors shops in major capital cities. The tiered prices within each brand surveyed are indicative of the quality of the fill, fabric, design and construction; these factors ultimately determine how well the bag will insulate the occupant from environmental extremes.

Seasons

Manufacturers and retailers use the four seasons as a consumer guide for matching sleeping bags to climatic conditions. A drawback to this system is the variety of weather in a large country such as Australia. Spring is far cooler in southern Tasmania than in northern Queensland. Snowfall in summer is not unusual on the high plains in the south-eastern States. For most bushwalkers a suitable sleeping-bag would be one with at least a three-

season and preferably a four-season rating. Provided that a suitable shelter, sleeping-mat and inner sheet are used, such a bag should give its occupant sufficient insulation in most Australian conditions. Those who like to venture above the snowline and very cold sleepers may like to try a four-plus season rating.

Shape

Down sleeping-bags are available in two basic shapes. Tapered rectangular bags have room for the legs and feet to move around and will therefore allow a greater range of sleeping positions. The foot section can be partially or fully unzipped to vent the bag on warm nights. They can also be zipped together to form double bags or opened up completely as a large doona. Mummy bags are cut to hug the waist and legs and are more thermally efficient. Because there is less air inside the bag, less body heat is expended to keep the mummy bag warm. A mummy bag with the same seasonal rating as a tapered bag will generally be lighter and more compact. However, if you've never used one before it's wise to take a mummy bag for a test drive before you shell out.

Weight

The weights listed in this survey were provided by the manufacturers. A word of caution: if weight is a critical factor you may like to weigh each bag individually.

Not the kind of conditions likely to lure a man out of a decent sleeping-bag! Stephen Curtin



Down sleeping-bags

	Seasons	Size	Fil	Fil weight, grams	Total weight, grams	Left	Outer	Zips	Sizes	Design	Construction	Value	Comments	Approx price \$
Aurora Australia www.aurorasingingbags.com.au														
◀ Hotham Mark II	3+	t	Duck/goose	800	1700	750	Ripstop nylon	T, S Std	●●½	●●½	●●½			280
Alaska	3+	m	Duck/goose	800	1600	750	Ripstop nylon	T Std	●●½	●●½	●●½			300
														
Domex New Zealand www.domex.co.nz														
◀ Star Lite	3+	t	Goose	700	1300	700	Nylon	S, S Std	●●●	●●●	●●●½			300
Pioneer	3+	t	Goose	700	1300	700	Pertex Endurance	S, S Std	●●●½	●●●½	●●●●			400
Bushlite	4	m	Goose	710	1500	700	Pertex Endurance	S Std	●●●½	●●●½	●●●½			660
														
Fairydown New Zealand www.fairydown.co.nz														
Eurolite	3	t	Duck	650	1500	650	Hydroloft	2 S Std, XL	●●●●	●●●½	●●●●			450
◀ Cobra	4	t	Goose	700	1600	700	Dryloft	2 S W, Std, XL	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●			550
Scorpion	4	m	Goose	700	1350	700	Dryloft Lite	S W, Std, XL	●●●●	●●●●	●●●●			600
														
Kathmandu China/Vietnam www.kathmandu.com.au														
Navigator	3+	t	Goose	700	1500	550	Nylon taffeta	2 T S, Std, XL	●●●	●●●	●●½	Built-in pillowcase in hood		460
Navigator	3+	t	Goose	700	1600	650	Dryheat	2 T Std, XL	●●●	●●●½	●●½	Built-in pillowcase in hood		660
◀ Moonraker	4	m	Goose	760	1700	650	Dryheat	T S, Std, XL	●●●	●●●½	●●½	Rubberised patches on base to prevent slipping		730
														
Macpac New Zealand www.macpac.co.nz														
Meridian	3	t	Duck	700	1300	580	Pertex/Epic	2 T Std, XL	●●●●	●●●½	●●●	Women's version available (Azure)		500
Tempest	3	t	Duck	700	1500	580	Epic	2 T Std, XL	●●●●	●●●½	●●●			570
◀ Solstice	4	m	Goose	700	1450	650	Epic	T Std, XL	●●●●	●●●●	●●●			750
														
Marmot China/USA www.marmot.com														
◀ Sawtooth	3	m	Goose	625	1304	600+	Pertex Horizon	T Std, XL, XW	●●●½	●●●	●●½	Dryloft shell available + \$150		550
Angel Fire	3	m	Goose	625	1193	600+	Pertex Horizon	T W, XL	●●●½	●●●	●●½			570
Helium	3	m	Goose	540	907	775+	Pertex Paralight	S Std, XL	●●●●	●●●½	●●½	Lightest but most expensive bag surveyed		800
														
Mont Fiji/Australia www.mont.com.au														
Zodiac	3	t	Duck	700	1390	600	Nylon taffeta	2 T Std, XL	●●●	●●●	●●●			380
Brindibella	3+	t	Goose	700	1340	650	Nylon/Hydronautic XT	2 T W, Std, XL	●●●●	●●●●	●●●½	Women's version available (Aurora)		470
Spindrift	4	m	Goose	750	1670	650+	Hydronautic XT	T W, Std, XL	●●●●	●●●●	●●½	Women's version available (Zodiac) 780 grams		700
														
Mountain Designs Australia www.mountaindesigns.com.au														
Hot Pod	3+	t	Duck	800	1620	550	Polyester/Epic	2 T Std	●●●½	●●●	●●●			400
Adela	3+	t	Duck	800	1550	550	Epic	2 T Std	●●●●	●●●●	●●●			550
◀ Cornice	4	m	Goose	700	1690	650	Epic	2 T Std	●●●●	●●●●	●●●			790
														
Mountain Hardwear China www.mountainhardwear.com														
Tallac	3	m	Goose	650	1280	600	Nylon taffeta	T Std	●●●½	●●●½	●●●	Has mosquito-net hood		420
Galaxy	4	m	Goose	694	1380	600	Conduit SL	T Std	●●●½	●●●½	●●●½	Expandable		600
Universe	4+	m	Goose	838	1650	600	Conduit SL	T Std	●●●½	●●●½	●●●½	Expandable		650
														

Down sleeping-bags continued

		Sessions	Shape	Fill	Fill weight, grams	Total weight, grams	Left	Outer	Zips	Sizes	Design	Construction	Value	Comments	Approx price, \$
One Planet Australia www.adventureone.com.au															
	➡ Bungle	3	t	Duck	700	1500	600+	Ripstop nylon	2 T	Std, XWL	****	***	****	Security pocket and pillowcase, stretch baffles	350
	➡ Bushlite	3+	t	Goose	700	1500	700+	Epic	2 T	Std, XWL	****	****	****	As above	600
	➡ Dandelion	4	m	Goose	750	1590	700+	Epic	T	Std	****	****	****	New design now has more knee and shoulder room	650
Outer Limits China www.charton.co.nz															
	Challenge f	3	t	Duck	600	1400	500	Polyester	2 T	Std	***½	***½	***		210
	➡ Columbia f	3+	t	Goose	750	1600	600	Polyester	2 T	Std	***½	***	***		350
Paddy Pallin Australia www.paddypallin.com.au															
	Cloudmaker	3	t	Duck	750	1400	570	PerTEX	2 T	Std, XL	****	***	***		400
	Cloudmaker DL	3+	t	Duck	750	1420	570	Dryloft	2 T	Std	****	***½	***½		500
	➡ Freeling	4	m	Goose	700	1370	660	Dryloft	T	W, Std, XL	****	****	***½	Women's version available (Townsend)	650
Roman Australia www.roman.com.au															
	Flight	3+	t	Duck	750	1500	550	Nylon taffeta	2 T	Std, XL, XWL	***½	***	****		320
	Everest Cap 2	4	t	Duck	880	1900	550	PerTEX	2 T	Std, XL, XWL	***½	***	****		350
	➡ Endurance	4	t	Goose	700	1600	600	PerTEX Endurance	2 T	Std, XL, XWL	***½	***½	****		400
Sherpa Australia www.sherpa.com.au															
	Traveller	3	t	Duck/goose	600	1300	750	Ripstop nylon	2 T	Std, XL, XWL	***½	***½	***	Chest muff, passport pouch	280
	➡ Alpine Dry	3+	t	Duck/goose	800	1700	750	Nylon/Emphatek	2 T	Std, XL, XWL	***	***	***½	Waterproof/breathable base and foot	450
Snowgum China www.snowgum.com.au															
	➡ Vesper	3	t	Duck	700	1400	600	Nylon taffeta	2 T	Std	***	***	***½		340

● poor ● average ●● good ●●● excellent Shape: t tapered rectangular, m mummy Type of zip slide: S single, T twin, L long Sizes: S short, Std standard, W women's version, XL extra long, XW extra wide, XXWL extra wide and long * not seen by referee The country listed after the manufacturer/brand name is the country in which the products are made

I recently discovered that two down sleeping-bags I bought have different weights from those listed in the brochures—they weigh 1780 grams and 1641 grams, respectively, rather than the listed weights—1600 grams and 1450 grams. Discrepancies of up to 25 per cent have been noted in some products.

Loft

Loft rating is an important but controversial subject. Manufacturers usually quote the minimum tested lofting capacity of the down used to fill their bags but this is not always the case. The greater the loft, the better the insulation it will provide at any given weight. Duck down tends to have a lower loft rating than goose down and duck down is generally only used in entry-level bags. Down from mature, free-range geese

that live in cold climates is considered to be the best and, not surprisingly, it is the most expensive. The 'puffiness' of a down-filled bag that is laid out to loft provides a visual clue to the quality of the down.

Outer

Down is an extremely good insulator; its plumes trap body heat very effectively as long as it is dry. But here is the greatest limitation of down—if it gets wet its insulating properties are reduced. Leaking tents, condensation and liquid spills are all potential problems during a bushwalk. That isn't a reason to choose a synthetic fill. Rather, consider a sleeping-bag with a waterproof shell. For years Gore Dryloft was the premium fabric for down protection. Alternative fabrics such as Dryheat, Hydronaut XT,

Conduit SL and Epic now provide similar water-resistance at a lower cost. These fabrics are also windproof and retain body heat effectively but they don't breathe as well and are slightly heavier than Gore Dryloft.

Zips

The products in this survey have good-quality YKK zips. Most of the tapered bags are more versatile as they have two-way, full-length side- and foot zips.

Sizes

Some manufacturers make variations of their popular, down-filled bags to fit the dimensions of taller, shorter or broader individuals. I saw several women's models during the survey process.

Proudly Australian Owned and Made!

Aurora Sleeping Bags



Reflecto Lite

- Single layer
- Loose lined
- Weight 800 gm
- Suitable for use to 0°C



Reflecto

- Single layer
- Loose lined
- Weight 1100 gm
- Suitable for use to -5°C



Super Reflecto

- Double layer
- Neck muff
- Weight 1500 gm
- Suitable for use to -8°C



Fine Stitching

More fine stitches per cm.

Draw-cord
Plastic cord lock prevents
rusting. Nylon spun
Rayon cord.



7 Hole Microblend
Provides world-class
insulation.



100% Nylon
210T70D extra-strong
knit-lock weave.



Twin Zips

Two zips - one at base, the other along
the side, to join two sleeping bags
together, bottom zip for ventilation.



Hood
Unique contoured
three-dimensional
hood.



Neck Muff
Prevents heat loss around
the shoulders.
(Super Reflecto only)



Zip Tape
Runs along the zip
to prevent the zip from
snagging.



**Carry Bag
Compressed**

Carry Bag

Available at all leading outdoors stores

www.aurorasleepingbags.com.au

YOUR ONE STOP MAP SHOPS

MELBOURNE'S MOST
COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

SPECIALTY BUSHWALKING
MAPS



BUSHWALKING
BOOKS AND GUIDES

COMPASSES,
GPS RECEIVERS
AND NAVIGATION ACCESSORIES

ON-SITE LAMINATING WHILE-U-WAIT
MAIL, PHONE, FAX, EMAIL ORDERS MOST WELCOME
CREDIT CARDS & EFTPOS AVAILABLE

At Two Handy Locations

Melbourne Map Centre

738-740 WAVERLEY ROAD, CHADSTONE, VIC. 3148
Phone : (03) 9569-5472 Fax : (03) 9569-8000
259 HIGH STREET, KEW, VIC. 3101
Phone : (03) 9853-3526 Fax : (03) 9853-4888
email : info@melbmap.com.au Internet : www.melbmap.com.au

Wild

AUSTRALIA'S WILDERNESS ADVENTURE MAGAZINE

Information Overload!

Any five
Wild back
issues
for only
\$30
(Australia only)

Any
three
Wild
indexes
for only
\$10

See details on
page 21 in this
issue.



SLEEPING BAG MAKERS

Tania has come all the way from Tasmania to join in the warmth of the One Planet sleeping bag team, here filling a Bush-Lite with 700 loft white goose down.



At One Planet, we are all proud to be part of a small Australian owned organisation. The whole team is dedicated to producing the best and we take pride in doing so.

P.O. Box 438, Flemington 3031

Ph: 03 9372 2555

www.1planet.com.au

Design

This rating is a subjective assessment of how well the combined features of each product could be expected to provide comfort, protection and insulation when used inside a shelter (such as a tent). Points were awarded according to:

- The shape and placement of baffles and dividers
- The positioning of draught tubes and neck muffs
- The shape of the hood

Buy right

• Always try your sleeping-bag before you buy. Check whether the zips snag easily or run freely. Check the fit, especially around your hips, shoulders and head, and check the length. Try whether the draw-cords are easy to use.

• For year-round bushwalking, tapered rectangular bags are highly recommended for their versatility and better ventilation.

• Cold sleepers should buy a bag with a higher season rating. If size and weight are an issue buy the best quality down possible, consider a mummy bag and use a compression sack.

• A down bag is an investment and should last at least ten years if you care for it properly. Don't skimp on quality or season ratings just to beat your budget. That breathable, waterproof fabric costing an extra \$100 may prove invaluable when conditions are wet or damp.

Construction

This rating is a subjective assessment of how well the features and materials are put together. Points were awarded according to:

- The quality of the materials used—zips, outer and inner fabrics, draw-cords
- The quality of the cut and stitching
- The quality of the down
- The overall size and weight of the bag in the stuff sack provided

High-quality down, breathable and waterproof fabrics, and compression sacks were rated higher.

Value

This rating, too, is subjective; it balances the design and construction of each product against its price.

Approximate price

The prices provided are for standard-sized models and were current for September 2002.

Jim Graham is a Melbourne-based physical/outdoor educator of 15 years' experience. He enjoys sharing his love of bushwalking, mountain-bike riding and white-water rafting with young people. His favourite outdoors classrooms are in the South Island of New Zealand.

This survey was refereed by Chris Boake.

CAN'T HELP WITH THE BRIDGE BUT WE CAN MAKE THE WATER SAFE.



No matter where you go or what you do, safe water is essential.
Within the Katadyn family of water systems you'll find just what you need for your trip.
From a name that's been trusted since 1928.



FOR EXPEDITION, LONG-TERM OR PROFESSIONAL USE.

Katadyn's classic Pocket Filter combines the highest quality and ultimate durability. So good, it comes with a 20-year warranty! Ultra rugged construction utilises stainless steel and aluminium components. 50,000-litre cartridge capacity. Ceramic filter technology combined with silver is effective against bacteria, protozoa and cysts. The Pocket or the Combi, which comes with a separate carbon stage to reduce chemicals, are the best you can buy. If viruses are a concern just add Katadyn Micropur Forte tablets or liquid.

Katadyn.



FOR CAMPING, BACKPACKING AND TRAVELLING.

Lightweight, very fast and easy to use. Effective against bacteria, protozoa and cysts. High output—1 to 1.5 litres/minute. Pleated cartridge with very large surface area resists clogging and dramatically improves output. Includes a carbon core to remove some chemicals and improve taste and smell. Models available, Hiker and Guide. If viruses are a concern just add Katadyn Micropur Forte tablets or liquid.

PUR

FOR SOLO AND ULTRALIGHT TREKS.

Exstream is the safest choice for a water-bottle system. Effective against viruses, bacteria, protozoa and cysts. The only 'bottle' registered with the US EPA which eliminates viruses. Small, simple and lightweight. Easy to use. Models available: Mackenzie 1000 ml and Orinoco 750 ml.



EXSTREAM

THE KATADYN FAMILY OF BRANDS.

www.katadyn.com/pur www.exstreamwater.com

Distributed by Outdoor Agencies Pty Ltd

Call (02) 9438 2266 for your free brochure or nearest stockist

sales@outdooragencies.com.au

**BONUS
OFFER**

Receive a Nalgene water bottle at no charge when you buy either the Hiker or Guide. Offer available until December 31, 2002 or while stocks last.

Water filters and purifiers for bushwalking

Richard King filters the good from the bad

Wild Gear Surveys: What they are and what they're not

The purpose of *Wild* Gear Surveys is to assist readers in purchasing specialist outdoors equipment of the quality and with the features most appropriate for their needs; and to save them time and money in the process.

The cost of 'objective' and meaningful testing is beyond the means not only of *Wild*, but of the Australian outdoors industry in general and we are not aware of such testing being regularly carried out by an outdoors magazine anywhere in the world. Similarly, given the number of products involved, field testing is beyond the means of Australia's outdoors industry. *Wild* Gear Surveys summarise information, collate and present it in a convenient and readily comparable form, with guidelines and advice to assist in the process of wise equipment selection.

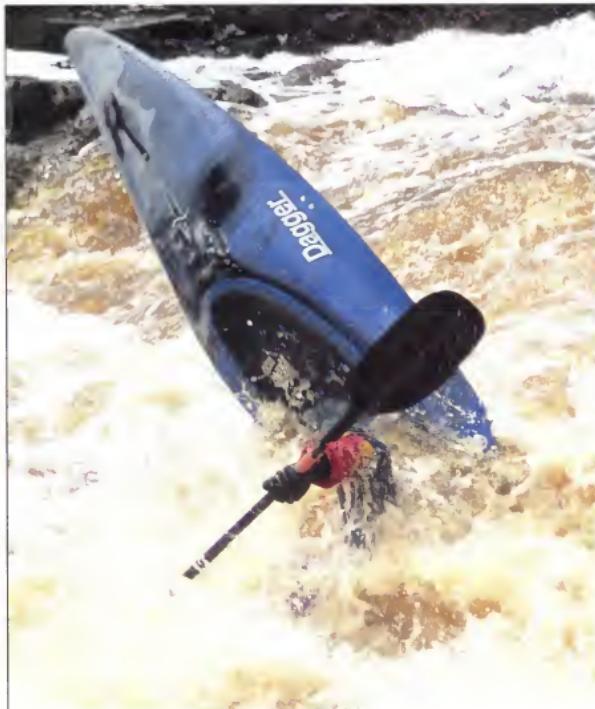
Surveyors are selected for their knowledge of the subject and their impartiality. Surveys are checked and verified by an independent referee, and reviewed by *Wild*'s editorial staff. Surveys are based on the items' availability and specifications at the time of the relevant issue's production; ranges and specifications may change later. Before publication each manufacturer/distributor is sent a summary of the surveyor's findings regarding the specifications of their products for verification.

Some aspects of surveys, such as the assessment of value and features—and especially the inclusion/exclusion of certain products—entail a degree of subjective judgement on the part of the surveyor, the referee and *Wild*, space being a key consideration.

'Value' is based primarily upon price relative to features and quality. A product with more elaborate or specialised features may be rated more highly by someone whose main concern is not price.

An important criterion for inclusion is 'wide availability'. To qualify, a product must usually be stocked by a number of specialist outdoors shops in the central business districts of the major Australian cities. With the recent proliferation of brands and models, and the constant ebb and flow of their availability, 'wide availability' is becoming an increasingly difficult concept to pin down.

Despite these efforts to achieve accuracy, impartiality, comprehensiveness and usefulness, no survey is perfect. Apart from the obvious human elements that may affect assessment, the quality, materials and specifications of any product may vary markedly from batch to batch and even from sample to sample. It is ultimately the responsibility of readers to determine what is best for their particular circumstances and for the use they have in mind for gear reviewed.



You never know when you'll need a reliable water filter! (Esperance River, Tasmania.) Nick Hancock

STRAINING WATER THROUGH A CLOTH AND then picking the lumpy bits out of your teeth isn't the best way to avoid becoming ill from a drink. You need to filter out protozoa, bacteria and viruses (refer to box 'What is in the water?' and to the previous water filter and purifier surveys in *Wild* nos 54 and 77).

The units surveyed here are widely available in outdoors shops with the exception of the General Ecology products. The latter are new to the Australian market and are worth a look due to their suitability for outdoors use and their unique filtration method. The products are available in the Sydney central business district or from Happy Wanderers Caravan Accessories. For more information, contact the importer on (08) 8359 3000 or gianuli@purifiersaustralia.com.au

The products included in this survey are claimed to meet or exceed the US Environmental Protection Authority standards. They will remove virtually all protozoa and bacteria from the water—and, in the case of purifiers, viruses as well—so the selection process will focus on other criteria.

Most viruses are too small to filter out easily. A purifier will either remove or deactivate virtually all viruses as the water is pumped through the unit. The same effect may be achieved by dosing filtered water before consumption with any number of proprietary solutions available from most outdoors shops; for example, iodine or chlorine. Virus protection is probably not required in Australia unless the supply is questionable—taking water directly down-

First Need®

Trav-L®-Pure Water Purifier

Distributors: Happy Wanderer Caravan
Accessories and RPS2 Marketing

Our most versatile
purifier. Equally well
suited for rugged outdoor
use or resort and business
travel. Totally self-
contained—no back-
washing, hoses or chemicals
needed. Just a few pumps to
quickly fill a glass or water bottle. Seals tight for
easy packing. Includes Cordura tote bag. A
favourite around the world! US EPA-approved
removal of viruses, bacteria and cysts.

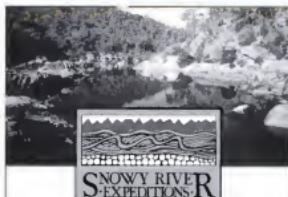
Importers: Purifiers (Australia) Pty Ltd,
Ph/fax (08) 8359 3000.
www.purifiersaustralia.com.au
Email gianuliani@purifiersaustralia.com.au



Waterproof <\$55



www.starholds.co.nz



offers special journeys to
eastern Australia's remotest places.
Guided by locals with an interest in
the Snowy River's past and future.

- Rafting through TULLOCH ARD GORGE. 1-, 2- and 4-day trips available
- Rafting the MITCHELL and MITTA MITTA RIVERS. 1-day or weekend trips available
- Climbing, caving and abseiling in the BUCHAN region

GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

Snowy River Expeditions

Ph (03) 5155 0220, fax (03) 5155 0308,
email karoonda@net-tech.com.au

*Ever wanted to know
where you can get a
waterproof, seam-
sealed, fully mesh-
lined jacket for less
than \$55?*

*Ask for 3 Peaks at
your specialist
outdoors shop.
Available in XS-4XL
in eight great
colours.*



ph: 03 9416 9000
fax: 03 9416 7255

stream from a septic system or sewerage treatment plant, for example.

What does all this mean for the user? Most of the world's freshwater sources are contaminated and this includes municipal town supplies (Sydney during the 1990s, for example). While all the models surveyed will stop most pathogens, they will allow some contaminants to pass. As alarming as it may sound, it is important to realise that humans, as a species, are adapted to most pathogens in our drinking-water. It is the concentration of pathogens that causes the problems; thus treated water is preferable as your body usually deals with small doses.

If all the units provide safe drinking water, how do you differentiate between the products and what does the jargon mean?

The products surveyed strain the water through a material matrix. As a result the flow rate is determined by the following variables: the pressure differential between the input and output sides of the filter element, the total filter surface area exposed

What is in the water?

Protozoa

Protozoa are the largest of the water-borne pathogens (2 to 15 microns) and include *Giardia lamblia* (treatable with prescription drugs), *Cryptosporidium parvum* (seven to ten days' 'entertainment'), and *Entamoeba histolytica* (symptoms last from one week to several months). The problem with protozoa is that in some cases the cysts that form the transmission phase of the pathogen are either resistant or immune to the chemical dosing of the infected water so, with the exception of pentavalent iodine, iodine or chlorine treatments won't stop infection.

Bacteria

Bacteria are the middle-sized group and include *Campylobacter*, *Escherichia coli* (E. coli), *Salmonella* and *Shigella*. Bacteria are susceptible to both chemical treatment and filtration. You are more likely to suffer infection by bacteria due to poor hygiene in food preparation and handling, or failing to wash your hands before you put something in your mouth.

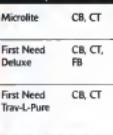
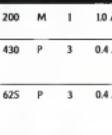
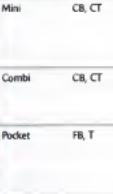
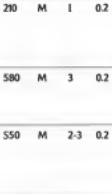
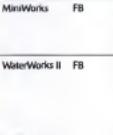
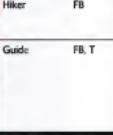
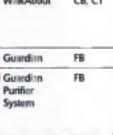
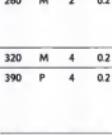
Viruses

Viruses are the smallest pathogen and the most difficult group to remove from the water. Generally they won't kill you but viruses can make life less than pleasant. The most common are rotavirus, various strains of hepatitis, meningitis and norwalk virus. Viruses are too small to be removed by mechanical sieving filtration, and either iodine or chlorine is added to the water to ensure their inactivation. The only brand surveyed to use a non-chemical means of purifying water is General Ecology.

to the water-pressure gradient and, finally, the size and number of pores in the filter matrix.

Glass-fibre filters use bundled strands of glass fibres. This type of filter provides good flow rates and is less susceptible to clogging due to the greater relative surface area for the same physical volume of the filter element as compared to a ceramic filter. Glass-

Water filters and purifiers for bushwalking

General Ecology USA www.purifiersaustralia.com.au	Use	Weight	Unit type	Preferred number of users	Pore size, microns	Filter material	Avg rate of output, litres per minute	Cartridge capacity, litres	Cartridge replacement cost, \$	Durability	Portability	Performance	Maintenance	Value for money	Comments	Avg price, \$	
	Microfilter	CB, CT	200	M	1	1.0 A	Structured matrix	1.00	55	36	••	••••	•••	••	•••	Iodine tablets included	84
	First Need Deluxe	CB, CT, FB	430	P	3	0.4 A	As above	1.25	500	109	••	•••	••••	•••	•••	Removes viruses without the use of chemicals	235
	First Need Trav-L-Pure	CB, CT	625	P	3	0.4 A	As above	1.25	500	108	•••	•••	••••	•••	•••	As above	356
Katadyn Switzerland www.katadyn.ch																	
	Mini	CB, CT	210	M	1	0.2	Ceramic	0.50	7000	152	•••	••••	•••	•••	•••	Small unit which may be hard to clean and slow to use. Very compact and light design	233
	Combi	CB, CT	580	M	3	0.2	Ceramic/activated carbon	1.00	50 000 (activated carbon up to 2000)	143	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	Good general design, suitable for travelling and occasional use	323
	Pocket	FB, T	550	M	2-3	0.2	Ceramic	1.00	50 000	275	••••	••••	••••	•••	•••	Simple, rugged and effective. It's also heavy. Ideal for serious use as you are unlikely to break it	499
MSR USA www.msrfcorp.com																	
	MiniWorks	FB	456	M	2	0.3	Ceramic element, block-carbon core	1.00	400-800	90	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••½	Small and light	185
	WaterWorks II	FB	539	M	2	0.2	As above	1.00	na	98	•••	••••	•••	•••	•••	Easy to use and pump. May be a little delicate for abusive environments	349
PUR USA www.purwater.com																	
	Hiker	FB	312	M	2	0.3	Pleated glass-fibre, carbon core	1.00	160	67	•••	••••	•••	•••	•••	Just don't sit on it. Includes prefilter	162
	Guide	FB, T	397	M	4	0.3	As above	1.00	160	93	•••	••••	••••	•••	•••	Simple and easy to use. Includes prefilter	202
SweetWater/Cascade Designs USA www.cascadedesigns.com																	
	WalkAbout	CB, CT	260	M	2	0.2 A	Glass-fibre/HIS activated carbon outer	0.90	380	77	•••	••••	•••	•••	•••	Accessories include an 80-micron prefilter	169
	Guardian	FB	320	M	4	0.2 A	As above	1.25	760	99	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	As above	199
	Guardian Purifier System	FB	390	P	4	0.2 A	As above	1.25	760	99	•••	•••	•••	•••	•••	As above. Also comes with a chlorine solution	219

● Poor ●● Average ●●● Good ●●●● Excellent

Use: CB casual bushwalking, CT casual travel, FB frequent bushwalking, T Trekking

Weights were supplied by the manufacturers

Unit type: M Microfilter, P Purifier Preferred number of users is determined by the unit's weight, performance, robustness and approximate rate of output. Unit size: Absolute pore size refers to the largest particle that can pass through the filter. Some models do not have a filter after the figure; in these cases, the survivor has been unable to determine whether the filter size is absolute.

Cartridge capacity depends on the quality of water used and on whether the cartridge can be cleaned. The figures were supplied by the manufacturers. Portability is a function of weight, size, durability, shape, intended use and the number of parts required. na not available. The country listed after the manufacturer/brand name is the country in which the products are made.

broad spectrum adsorption, and electro-kinetic attraction. The removal of particles, including viruses, is not directly dependent on absolute pore size—as is the case in the other models surveyed. An activated-carbon filter element has been added to some models to remove unpleasant tastes and most chemicals; however, the activated-carbon will usually have a significantly shorter life span than the rest of the filter element.

Ceramic filters require a greater pressure differential (that is, they are harder to pump) for the same volume of water. The filter elements are more fragile. However, as most of the filtering is on the surface, they can be scraped clean many times.

Structured-matrix units use a combination of microfiltration, molecular sieving and

broad spectrum adsorption, and electro-kinetic attraction. The removal of particles, including viruses, is not directly dependent on absolute pore size—as is the case in the other models surveyed. An activated-carbon filter element has been added to some models to remove unpleasant tastes and most chemicals; however, the activated-carbon will usually have a significantly shorter life span than the rest of the filter element.

In general, the quality of the filter unit's construction and the materials used will in-

fluence the weight and robustness of the unit. Weight is invariably linked to strength, all other things being equal. The arrangement of the water input and output systems will influence the user's liking for the unit. Some will prefer the output receptacle to be firmly attached to the filter pumping unit; others will like having a hose so that non-standard bottles may be filled.

In summary, do you require a microfilter or a purifier level of protection? Another important consideration is flow rate; for

Water in the Australian bush

Is it safe to drink? By Stuart Dobbie

MOST COUNTRIES, FROM THE POOREST developing nations to the mighty, overdeveloped USA, have problems with water quality. What about here in Australia? I grew up with the concept of carrying a plastic cup on the outside of my pack, within easy reach to dip into whatever gently flowing creek happened to cross the track. In recent years my bushwalking friends have been returning from walks with stories of gut infections attributed to drinking impure water. Lake Tali Karrn, Frenchmans Cap; the Snowy River. Are the precious waterways in Australian National Parks still safe?

What makes you sick

Impure water makes you sick when organisms in the water infect you. There are several different types:

- Viruses—subcellular genetic parasites that reproduce in the cells of a host;
- Bacteria—tiny cellular life forms;
- Protozoa—parasitic organisms such as giardia that infect the digestive system.

Symptoms of a bacterial or protozoan gut infection include stomach cramps, diarrhoea, fever and chills, nausea and vomiting. Depending on the type of infection, the symptoms may disappear after a few days or persist and require medical attention. During a walk the main concerns are dehydration and patient comfort. Evacuation may be required if problems are severe or persist for more than a few days. Viral infections which include nasties such as hepatitis A are more serious and the symptoms vary from one virus to another.

You may also become sick if other toxins are in the water. Waste from factories and houses, chemicals dumped from logging activity and run-off from roads are all potential contaminants. Even if the contaminant is not immediately harmful to humans, such as sediments from four-wheel-drive activity or soap and detergents from washing, the effect of changed conditions on aquatic life may compromise the quality of the water downstream.

When is the water likely to be bad?

I surveyed rangers from a few popular Australian National Parks. I asked what they thought were the major threats to water quality in their park. It appears that each park has specific problems but every park ranger considers bad camping practices are a concern.

In the Otway Ranges in south-west Victoria run-off from agriculture is a key problem as it raises the nutrient continent in the

water and increases the prevalence of *E. Coli* bacteria.

In the Stirling Ranges in Western Australia water generally flows out of the park rather than into it so there is little concern about agricultural run-off. However, tap- and tank water are routinely checked for *E. Coli*. 'Most of the natural flowing sources of water in the Stirlings are considered reasonably good quality', says Stirling Ranges ranger Karlene

Treatment

If you suspect that your water is contaminated, there are several methods of sterilisation. The method you choose will depend on personal preference. The most common are:

- Boiling
- Chemical treatment
- Using a water filter

Method	Process	Good points	Bad points
Boiling	Boil for several minutes	Cheap and simple. Can be combined with cooking	Requires an energy source such as a wood fire (you may be in a popular area where fires are discouraged) or a stove with fuel (heavy to carry)
Chemical treatment—chlorine	Add chlorine tablets to water and wait	Cheap. Weighs virtually nothing	Unpleasant taste. Chlorine may not kill some bugs
Chemical treatment—iodine	Add iodine tablets to water and wait 30 minutes	Cheap. Weighs virtually nothing	Some people find the taste unpleasant. Water treated this way cannot be used for cooking. It turns your pasta blue!
Filtration combined with chemical treatment	Pump water through a specially made device that passes water through an iodine-based filter	Good tasting, clear water	Very expensive. Kits may not last long before parts must be replaced. Does not work well with silted water. Yet another item to carry in the pack

Bain. 'Healthy mosses and frog activity are good indicators of the health of the water.'

Visitors to the Alpine National Park are advised to be careful near popular campsites, huts and toilets. Water should be collected upstream from these sites. Major streams, rivers and creeks that flow into the park from surrounding farmland and areas that are grazed by cattle or horses should be treated with caution. Water is generally good but we often advise visitors to boil water because it is found that people sometimes react badly to untreated water', advises ranger Gill Anderson. She cites faecal waste from humans, cattle and horses as the main pollutants as well as soap and detergents. Sources of contamination include: 'Pit toilets, inappropriate camping techniques, cattle grazing and areas heavily used by horse-riding parties, especially near rivers and streams used for horse washing, camping and drinking.'

A walking permit for the northern section of Wilsons Promontory National Park in Victoria includes a friendly warning about the water. At the Tin Mine Cove camp-site discarded toilet paper in the bushes above the creek reinforces the warning!

Development along the ridgelines in the Blue Mountains in New South Wales rules out the collection of water from the rivers and creeks below. Any watercourse where humans have access to the watershed may be contaminated.

If you have an ample energy source such as a stove, boiling is the most straightforward method. A few minutes at a steady boil are enough. At high altitudes you need to increase this time to account for the lower boiling temperature.

Chlorine and iodine tablets are cheap and are available in most camping shops. Iodine solution can be bought from pharmacists; this may be the only source in developing countries. Iodine is the preferred chemical purifier as chlorine does not kill all germs. Tablets or measured drops are added to water, then you must wait 30 minutes before drinking it. Some people don't like the taste of water treated in this way; flavouring with powdered cordials or vitamin C tablets may be an option. You will need a stronger solution for very cold water.

In Europe and North America portable water filters are popular. Walkers may baulk at yet another expensive 'gizmo' but a growing band of devotees swear by them. Water filters use pressure from a hand pump to pass the water through a micro-porous core. This removes impurities and the water has a clean, fresh taste. However, this system is only complete when combined with an iodine filter which will kill viruses; these are often sold as 'accessories'. Sometimes a carbon filter is used to remove the iodine after treatment.

The effects of long-term exposure to iodine are not known; neither iodine tablets nor

water filters are recommended for long-term use. None of these methods will reliably remove chemical toxins (or salt) from water.

How to avoid contributing to the problem

Germs such as giardia infect a host and are transferred to water in faecal waste. The water is ingested by another host and the cycle continues. Safe camping practices entail:

- Going to the toilet downhill from camp and well away from any watercourse or watershed.
- Digging a 15 centimetre hole and burying all your waste. Carry a lightweight plastic trowel and encourage your companions to use it too. In extremely sensitive areas consider a 'carry-in, carry-out' procedure. Rockclimbers on multi-day, big-wall ascents now carry 'poo-tubes'; multiday cave exploration expeditions have been carrying out their faecal waste for years. Support environmental causes that reduce inappropriate or uncontrolled development in or near wilderness areas.

Are Australia's wilderness areas safe?

After interviewing more than a dozen rangers from various bushwalking areas across Australia it was reassuring to hear that most of them—if cautiously—are of the opinion that you can drink untreated water if you take some precautions. Don't collect water too close to camping areas, development and the source of the water.

A major concern is the spread of bugs such as giardia, which are extremely prevalent overseas. Once they are present, the natural cycle from host to water and new host may systematically infect creeks and streams. Australian bushwalkers and globetrotting backpackers will almost inevitably introduce such pests. In time it may become standard practice to treat all water before drinking, as is required in most other countries. However, by educating walkers we can delay the spread of these organisms. For the moment we can enjoy the unique privilege bestowed by Australia's wild places—the freedom to dip your cup into a clear, flowing stream and take a well-earned drink. 

Stuart Dobbie is a perpetual bumble climber. A perfect day is one spent lost on some big, long-forgotten cliff miles from anywhere. He also enjoys long ski tours, sea kayaking trips and photography. He has a boring desk job which he avoids as much as he can.

example, Katadyn filters tend to be slightly harder and slower to pump due to the smaller pore size and easily cleaned ceramic filter elements. So, if field reliability is more important than easily producing a couple of litres, you may prefer a product with a ceramic filter element. On the other hand, if you will be out for only a few days and prefer a unit that's easier to pump, a product using a glass-fibre or structured matrix filter element may be a better choice.

Tips for users

- Collect water from the cleanest available water source; check what is upstream for at least 50 metres, and take water from a running source rather than a stagnant pool. Avoid raw sewage and undiluted industrial discharges if possible.
- Prefilter the water by using either a proprietary prefiltre such as SweetWater's 80 micron unit or your own prefiltre made out of coffee filters and a rubber band—the fewer contaminants that have to be removed by the filter element, the longer the filter will last.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when storing the filter—it will prevent problems next time you try to use the unit.
- Prevent cross-contamination of the input and output sides; the best way to do this is to put the input hose in a separate, resealable storage bag.
- Replace the filter element when it reaches the end of its life. Manufacturers provide a means of determining this; for example, a ceramic gauge or food colouring. In all cases, a good indication is when the unit becomes more difficult to pump.
- In most cases, it is prudent to take a spare cartridge unless the filter element is new; even then, it may be worth the weight if the trip is for more than a few days.
- It is worth flushing iodised water through your filter after each trip to kill any bugs collected on the surface of the filter element. That way there is no dangerous build-up which could break through if anything goes wrong.

Other options

Water-bottle filters. Water-bottle filters are designed for light use such as day-trips close to a water source. Compared to the pump-style units surveyed, water-bottle filters are only suitable for one person, the filters are less effective as they have a larger pore size (one to two microns), and the filter cartridges generally have a shorter life span. Products on the market include the Bota de Boulder Outback filter, the Estream Orijino purifier and Mackenzie purifier, the Katadyn Bottle purifier and the Aquamira Water Bottle and Filter Kit. Prices range between \$55 and \$120.

Gravity filters. Gravity filters provide safe water for up to ten people in a fixed-base camp. The upside is that you do not have to pump; the downside is the low pro-

duction rate, such as five litres in the first hour. Katadyn's Camp (475 grams) and Siphon (440 grams) have a ceramic filter with a pore size of 0.2 micron. The Camp comprises a siphon filter and a ten litre waterbag. Fill the water-bag and suspend it from a tree. The Siphon makes use of height differentials, capillary pressure and water columns.

Pump-style filters for large groups.

The pump-style models below are heavier than those surveyed but are suitable for up to 25 people in a base-camp environment; for example, rafting. The First Need Base Camp purifier (two kilograms), manufactured by General Ecology, has a structured-matrix filter with a pore size of 0.4 micron

Buy right

- Talk to shop staff. Some businesses run training courses for retail staff.
- Decide whether you want a microfilter or a purifier. If you are travelling overseas, find out whether you can buy safe, bottled water: it may be a better solution.
- Decide how many people will probably want to use the product on the same trip.
- Keep in mind the durability of the product. Will it survive being sat on?
- Consider the weight; a heavier model is usually more durable.
- If possible, practise pumping water through your preferred model before you buy it.
- Can the filter be cleaned? If not, the cartridge will be used up sooner than those that can be cleaned.
- Are filter cartridges readily available? In most parts of the world, spare parts are hard to find.
- Consider other places and ways to buy. Look on the Internet—you will be amazed how much information you can get.
- Are spares available? All the products surveyed seemed to have a good selection of spares readily available.

(absolute). The approximate rate of output is two litres a minute. The Katadyn Expedition (5.2 kilograms) has a ceramic filter with a pore size of 0.2 micron. The approximate rate of output is four litres a minute.

Chemical purification. Iodine and chlorine are the two most common chemicals used to purify water. However, individually they will not control some protozoa. They also have a tendency to leave an after-taste in the water. The dosing of water requires some attention to detail as the temperature of the water and the contact time are critical (follow the manufacturer's instructions). Look out for products such as Micropur Forte tablets, which contain silver and calcium hypochlorite (100 tablets for \$33), and Coghlan's Drinking Water Treatment, which uses iodine (one bottle for \$15, two-bottle set for \$20). 

Richard King lives surrounded by water—none of which he can drink—on a yacht on the east coast of Australia. When he's not sailing, he works as a consulting engineer and has had to use water filters as a normal part of life.

This survey was refereed by Roger Coffin.

NEW NEW

NEW

NEW



**take the load
off your back!**
LOAD RE-DISTRIBUTION X-SYSTEM



*FEATURES:
NEW CUSTOMIZED
TATONKA "X-VENT"
OPTIMUM FIT SYSTEM!

*
FEATURES NEW!
STIFFER EXTRA PADDED
& VENTED HIP BELT.

X-VENT SYSTEM CREATES
CONSTANT FRESH AIR FLOW
BETWEEN PACK & BACK!

IN-BUILT
RAIN COVERS.

INTEGRATED,
LIGHT WEIGHT "X"
FRAME FORMS THE
BACK BONE
OF ALL TATONKA
X-SYSTEM
BACKPACKS.
ENSURING
EVEN LOAD WEIGHT
DISTRIBUTION.
MINIMIZE FATIGUE
WHILST MAXIMIZING
PERSONAL TRAVEL
COMFORT.

KATANGA XI-SYSTEM
IDEAL FOR CARRYING HEAVY LOADS
FOR LONG TREKKING DISTANCES.
60, 70 & 80 LITRE CAPACITY.



GLACIER X-LITE
IDEAL FOR ALPINE USE.
TOURING OVER ONE
OR SEVERAL DAYS.
45 LITRE CAPACITY.

*MOTION X-VENT
IDEAL FOR HIKING IN ALL CLIMATES.
FULLY ADJUSTABLE, CUSTOMIZED
BACK SUPPORT
25, 30 & 35 LITRE CAPACITY

AVAILABLE FROM LEADING OUTDOOR ADVENTURE & CAMPING STORES



EXPEDITE LIFE

The Ultimate all terrain sandal

Only source has the...

**Green Dot • 2 year plus
extended Guarantee***



AVAILABLE FROM LEADING OUTDOOR ADVENTURE & CAMPING STORES

We guarantee*
our sandals for 2 years
and extend this guarantee
for as long as the
Green Dot, located on
the sandal sole,
remains visible.

Only Source
has it!



X-cross™
patented
strapping system

Non-slip rubber

3 layer sole

Useful packaging
re-useable carry bag

SOURCE
VAGABOND SYSTEMS

exclusive distributor OUTDOOR SURVIVAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD www.outdoorsurvival.com.au

*



exclusive distributor OUTDOOR SURVIVAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

www.outdoorsurvival.com.au

Cross your heart?

Since its introduction to the Australian market in 1993, the German brand **Tatonka** has been transformed from 'yet another brand of rucksacks' mainly specialising in day packs' to a major player with an innovative range that includes something for every kind of pack wearer. Tatonka's new range of **Motion** (three sizes) and **Glacier** (two sizes) packs, available this summer, continues this trend. The introduction of a new load-carrying system (called X-Lite), which has crossed metal rods that load the hip-belt, enables a heavier load to be carried in a smaller pack. The packs also demonstrate the results of considerable effort



Tatonka Motion 30 rucksack.

to reduce sweat under the pack. Distributed by **Outdoor Survival Australia**. Phone (03) 9775 1916. RRP's range from \$120 to \$145.

New kid in town

If you plan to introduce a new brand of **rainwear** to the Australian market you've got to be able to survive South-west Tassie, let alone the wilds of Sydney's Kent Street or Melbourne's Little Bourke Street. If you eschew the fabled Gore-Tex as New Zealand interloper **Orangi** has done, you're taking on an even greater challenge. However, this brash Kiwi company comes with watertight credentials from one of the world's wettest countries and a raft of testimonials



Orangi Grampian jacket.

to the effectiveness of its Flexothane stretchable and lightweight fabric. The samples we inspected (the **Grampian jacket** and

Buller overtrousers) were certainly light and supple and are said to be breathable as well (but less so than Gore-Tex). No glues or sealing tape are used—the sections are welded together. RRP \$259.95 and \$139.95, respectively. Phone Orangi's Australian office on 1800 674 640.

Something old, something new

Is it the great Aussie thong or is it a **sport sandal**? The **Source Equator** is both! At the front a familiar thong goes between your first two toes. At the back is the highly adjustable X-Cross strapping system. New in 2003, the Equator is distributed by **Outdoor Survival Australia**. Phone (03) 9775 1916. RRP \$115.

For decades the name **Meindl** has been a byword of quality at the heavy-duty end of the European **walking- and mountaineering-boot** market. Local distributor **Stäger Sport** (phone 1031 9529 2954) has had to work hard in the crowded and fiercely competitive local market. Stäger Sport has just introduced a range of lighter walking shoes, the nubuck leather and Cordura Magic series. The **Magic Men Low 3000** has an RRP of \$250.

Originally imported by the now defunct Patagonia Australia, **Montrail walking boots** are available again, this time from **Snowgum** shops. Snowgum has adopted

Watch this

A wristwatch-style **global positioning system**? Now that's news! **Casio's Pro Trek Satellite Navi** may be just the ticket for those who want to travel light but require the accuracy of a GPS. The unit includes a built-in, rechargeable lithium battery. Distributed by **Shiro Australia**. Phone (02) 9415 5000. RRP \$899.

Speaking of lightweights, **Black Diamond's Ion headtorch** weighs a mere 35 grams (including battery)! It has two LEDs and the claimed burn time is 15 hours. Previously available only in Paddy Pallin shops, the Black Diamond headtorch range is now available throughout Australia. Distributed



Left, Casio Pro Trek Satellite Navi GPS.

Right, Suunto X6 Wristop Computer.

Left, Black Diamond Ion headtorch.

At last! A jacket that keeps you and your shorts dry.

How many times have you asked yourself, "why don't they make a bush walking jacket that's long enough to keep my darn shorts dry?"

That's what clients have been asking since we launched the revolutionary Flexothane Grampian jacket in 1999. After numerous feedback sessions, the number one improvement suggestion from all current users was, "Make it longer".

So we have, The Grampian jacket now has a long back length of 105cm. That means no more wet shorts!!! And that's not all — check out the other great design features on the Grampian.

- Peaked, fold away, adjustable hood
- Fits all head sizes!
- Garment weight just 700 grams
- Takes up minimal space!
- Double storm flap, press stud and zip coat closure system
- Full internal storm cuff and Velcro closure at wrist to help prevent water run back
- Draw cord through waist for shape
- Extra long back length - 105cm

All these great features for the low investment of

\$259.95

► Colours: Jade/Navy, Red/Navy
Sizes: S—XXL
XXXL (\$279.95)

NEW DESIGN



MAIL THIS ORDER NOW!

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____	Postcode _____
Address _____	
Tel: _____	
Garment Size _____	Colour _____
Card Number _____	
Type of card _____	Expiry Date _____

"It's about time someone came out with an affordable jacket that actually works! Congratulations — I love my new coat"

G Hutton, Melbourne

ORINGI
PROTECTION WEAR

31 Marna Street Healesville Vic 3777
PHONE FREE 1800 674 640

31 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE — FREE DELIVERY, FAST DISPATCH.

100% water and wind proof
Unrestrictive. Stretches up to 150% and returns to original shape without damage
Super lightweight, soft and comfortable.
Machine washable
Unbelievably strong and air permeable
Resistant to oil derivatives and a wide variety of chemicals

www.oringi.com.au



Intelligent Equipment for the Outdoors...

SCHRADE i-QUIP™

The New Schrade i-Quip™ is perfect for all outdoor activities including hiking, backpacking, camping and more!

The i-Quip offers the ultimate in convenience and is smart enough to "get you there faster, safer and easier." The Schrade i-Quip computer module is outfitted with today's finest mobile electronics. The i-Quip is well equipped to tackle basic tasks - or to be an outdoor survival specialist.

Let Schrade's NEW i-Quip "Intelligent Equipment for the Outdoors" maximize your outdoor adventures!



MODEL #IQ100

COMPUTER MODULE

- Altimeter (to 29,500 ft.)
- Barometer (Thermometer, Standard & Metric)
- Digital Compass
- Time/Clock (Stopwatch, Alarm & Backlight)

IMPLEMENT POD

- Phillips Screwdriver
- Flathead Screwdriver
- Cutting Blade
- Scissors
- Saw
- Cap lifter
- Can Opener
- Cork Screw

OTHER FEATURES:

- LED Flashlight
- Signal Mirror
- Survival Whistle (SOLAS Certified)
- Lighter Compartment
- Belt Clip

SCHRADE



S&H1079HP

For more information on the Schrade i-Quip or other Schrade products, call Sheldon and Hammond on 1800 209 999 or visit our website: schradeknives.com

'HANDS ON' CHALLENGES

Travel the world



and raise money for children with cerebral palsy



I won't cost you a cent!



Call now on
02 9975 8276!



Peru
10 day trek through the Andes to Machu Picchu



New Zealand
10 day trek and kayaking in Abel Tasman Park



Russia
16 day cycling tour St Petersburg to Moscow



Fiji
9 Day kayak around Yasawa Island chain



or select your own challenge!

C'mon personally challenge yourself & raise funds for The Spastic Centre

www.thespasticcentre.org.au/challenges

Meridian Kayak

Expand your horizons...

...recreationally and professionally, with innovative instruction courses, remote sea kayak eco trekking and corporate development programs.

- Instruction courses to suit **everyone**, from beginners to sea kayak instructors
- Sea kayak **eco touring**, from a day to multiday expeditions
- Adventure based **development and learning programs**

Professional attitude, comprehensive risk management and safety protocols.

Australian Canoe Inc National Training Provider. Fully qualified sea guides and sea instructors.

Licensed operator with Parks Victoria. Full public liability insurance cover.

Meridian Kayak Adventures

1300 656 433

www.meridiankayak.com.au

email: meridian@ocean.com.au



CLIMB ALPINE STYLE NEW ZEALAND

First ski descent, Mt D'Arth, Mt Cook National Park
Photography by Mark Soden - DR Photo Photography

PERSONALISED GUIDING & SPECIALISED INSTRUCTION
WE WILL CONVERT YOUR ASPIRATIONS INTO REALITY
Telephone: +64 3 443 9422

ASPIRING GUIDES
New Zealand

www.AspiringGuides.com

Montrail's exhaustive fitting system. It is claimed that this system was developed and new lasts introduced after 'scanning 800 000 pairs of feet to find out the true shape of the average person's feet'. The Montrail 'Clinical Catalogue' from Snowgum includes five models; top of the range is the **Torre GTX**.

trix

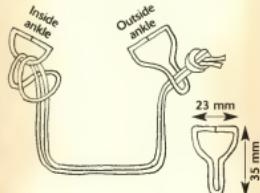
Better gaiter straps

Lashings of common sense from Martin Stone

Most gaiters have a strap or tie that passes over the instep of your boot to hold the gaiter snugly in place. Many designs almost invariably suffer from two problems:

The straps/ties quickly wear out and are difficult to replace in the field.

The fastenings are difficult to operate when frozen or clogged with mud or dirt.



The solution:

Replace the buckle/D-ring on the outer ankle of each gaiter with a 'slotted D-ring' as shown. You can make these from three millimetre stainless steel or brass wire.

Replace each strap/tie with a simple loop of three millimetre nylon cord, knotted at one end as shown. Carry two spare loops in your repair kit.

To fasten, push the knot through the wide mouth of the D-ring, then let it slide down and jam in the slot; to unfasten, slide the knot up in the slot and let it pop back through the mouth of the D-ring.

I have been using my prototypes for many years in all sorts of cold and gritty conditions and the sheer simplicity of the system appears to be foolproof. They have never come undone by accident but they easily unfasten when required, even with frozen, fumbling fingers.

Wild welcomes readers' contributions to this section; payment is at our standard rate. Send them to the address at the end of this department.

New and innovative products of relevance to the ruck-sack sports (on loan to *Wild*) and/or information about them, including high-resolution digital photos (on CD, not by email) or colour slides, are welcome for possible review in this department. Written items should be typed, include recommended retail prices and preferably not exceed 200 words. Send them to *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181 or contact us by email: wild@wild.com.au

Platypus water bottles



Lightweight and collapsible, the Platypus water bottle is unlike any other you've ever seen. Thanks to its flexibility, Platypus flattens to almost nothing when empty, but it stands upright on a stable base when full. It conforms to irregularities, so you can fill it from a mere trickle of a creek, and stuff it into small, tight spaces inside your pack. Made with durable 'triple-layer laminate' and 'welded seam construction', Platypus is so strong it withstands freezing and boiling and it comes with a lifetime warranty. Platypus is lined with taste-free polyethylene, so your drinking water never gets that yucky, plastic taste.

Big Zip

Big Zip™ reservoirs feature a patented, bomb-proof, wide-opening zip closure. This makes it quick and easy to fill them with water, to add ice cubes or drink mixes, and to thoroughly clean and dry. Built with the same flexible, durable, three-layer laminate as Platypus bottles, Big Zip™ reservoirs likewise have no unpleasant plastic taste.



Hoser reservoirs

Slip a Hoser into a day pack or backpack and instantly convert it into a hydration pack for a fraction of the cost. Durable hydration reservoirs made with taste-free triple-laminate material. Hoser reservoirs have all the great bottle features plus a drinking tube, HyperFlow™ Bite Valve, and a lapel clip for hands-free hydration.



Put a Platypus in your pack, and discover the advantages of hands-free hydration.

platypus

Flexible Hydration Systems

Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd. Ph. (02) 9966 9800 Fax (02) 9966 9811 e-mail platypus@spelean.com.au www.cascadedesigns.com

STOP Viruses with the Guardian™ Purifier System!

This iodine-free purifier system includes the proven Guardian™ Microfilter for removal of water-borne bacteria and protozoan parasites, plus the chlorine-based protection of ViralStop™ to effectively inactivate viruses. ViralStop™ is fast and easy to use. No slow or double-pumping is required. For each litre of filtered water, just add five drops and wait five minutes. A Platypus 2+ Bite Bottle that connects directly to the microfilter is included for ViralStop™ treatment. This system works fast in all water conditions and meets the stringent US EPA requirements for Microbiological Water Purifiers. It inactivates 99.99% of water-borne viruses and eliminates over 99.9999% of all water-borne bacteria and 99.9% of common protozoan parasites such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium.

It comes with a 30 micron stainless steel filter that is replaceable. The filter is housed in a durable Platypus 2+ Bite Bottle. It's easy to boil, clean, store, carry, boil and use.



It only takes 5 minutes to purify one litre of water using ViralStop™.



SweetWater

MAKING WATER SAFE TO DRINK

Extending the South-west WHA

There has been considerable publicity about a series of karst caves east of Blakes Opening in the Huon valley (see *Wild no 86*) near Tasmania's South-west World Heritage Area; the caves were found by Forestry Tasmania during logging activity. Following the discovery of the caves two years ago, Forestry Tasmania stopped road building and suspended logging in the area.

The Forest Practices Board has suggested that a caver should accompany forestry workers on early visits to the area; however, the caver must agree not to report back to the caving community. Forestry Tasmania has said that it will not log the area surrounding the known caves but is at present surveying the dolomite and may possibly be considering rerouting the access road downhill, closer to the Huon River and the infamous Yo-Yo Track. The Wilderness Society, the Native Forest Network, Southern Tasmanian Cave-meers and the Greens have all called for an extension of the World Heritage Area to include the caves and for the access road to be rehabilitated. The Tasmanian Government seems unlikely to concede any further area to the WHA.

Stephen Bunton

Act now

Write to Jim Bacon, Premier of Tasmania and Minister for National Parks & Tourism, and to Peg Putt, Greens Leader, both c/- Parliament House, Hobart, Tas 7000. Ask for an extension to the WHA and the creation of new National Parks where the conservation values of a particular area would be best served by long-term protection.

Friend or FoE?

Friends of the Earth UK estimates that since it launched its first report on the highly destructive Indonesian paper industry ('Paper Tiger, Hidden Dragons'), Indonesian pulp sales to the UK have dropped by 84 per cent and paper sales to the UK have dropped by 61 per cent. Trade data also show that this decline has cost the two paper companies identified (APP and APRIL) about £41.3 million (well over \$A100 million) in lost sales.

As a direct result of FoE's campaign APP has signed an agreement for an independent auditor to assess the quality of the remaining forest over which it has logging rights in Sumatra to protect the areas that are con-

Ozone closure

When you reach retirement, Jessie, the ozone hole will be fixed. Then there'll just be the contaminated food, filthy air, stinking water...



The hole in the ozone layer is said to be closing over, reported *The Australian* on 18 September. Research in the 1980s linked ozone depletion to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which were formerly used in some fridges, foam plastics and as a propellant in aerosol sprays. During the 1990s the use of CFCs was dras-

tically reduced due to the Montreal Protocol adopted in 1987.

Chief atmospheric research scientist at the CSIRO Paul Fraser said that CFCs in the atmosphere are declining at a rate of about one per cent a year and that in about 50 years the ozone layer is expected to have closed over completely.

sidered to have high conservation value. APRIL has halted logging in Tesso Nilo, the largest unprotected area of rainforest in Sumatra. Tesso Nilo is the refuge of Sumatran elephants. It is also the home of the most diverse plant life of any rainforest on earth.

Ed Matthew

Plantation overload

For the past seven years the Greens and the conservation movement have been pushing for an end to old-growth logging on the basis that sufficient plantations exist to provide saw-logs and wood-chips for Australia's needs, reported the *Potoro Review* in its spring issue. A survey by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Rural Economics (ABARE) in August showed that there is a glut of timber due to the vast plantations established during the 1960s and 1970s.

Figures in the ABARE report suggest that by 2006 about 75 per cent of timber, rather than the forecast 62 per cent, will be taken from plantations. The report indicated that as the glut increases, timber prices will drop worldwide—Chile, Argentina, South Africa and New Zealand also have large potential supplies of plantation timber. Native-forest logging is set to undermine the market for plantation wood.

Wood-chips

- Four Greens were elected in recent Tasmanian State elections: Peg Putt, Nick McKim, Tim Morris and Kim Booth. The **18.2 per cent vote for the Greens in Tasmania** is a world record—and the trend is growing. As we went to press there was even more significant news for the Greens in the **by-election for the New South Wales Federal Government seat of Cunningham**. In a major upset, it was won by Michael Organ, giving the Greens their first-ever member in the House of Representatives. Bob Brown for PM!
- Japanese-owned wood-chipper **Daishowa** has failed in an attempt to claim \$17 000 compensation for lost time and production caused by conservationists who prevented a wood-chip carrier from loading at the port of Eden, NSW. In a bid to protect Australia's tradition of peaceful protests, magistrate David Helleman decided not to make the order which had been sought by the prosecution.
- After the **Earth Summit** in Johannesburg in September, the Australian Conservation Foundation's Don Henry commented that 'world leaders have brought **global action on climate change** to the brink of reality despite a weak consensus Plan of Action which will not deliver sustainable development for the twenty-first century'.



For more than four decades SCARPA boots have been recognised for their superb fit, function and durability. In fact, we were making bushwalking boots when the other guys were just making running shoes.

We go that bit further. So you can.



Model Shown: SL

Distributed by Outdoor Agencies Pty Ltd
Call (02) 9438 2266 for your nearest stockist
sales@outdooragencies.com.au



Have you visited the Wild Web site lately?

You'll find plenty of new stuff!

As well as finding out what's in the latest issues of Wild and Rock, and being able to order Wild things online, you can see:

NEWS What's happening at Wild, and special offers

TIPS Readers' suggestions on how to do it better

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Writing and submitting photos for Wild and Rock

GUIDELINES FOR ADVERTISERS

Supplying advertising material for Wild and Rock

LINKS Direct to the Web sites of major outdoors enterprises



In addition, you can see everything from Wild's privacy policy to details of hundreds of specialist outdoors enterprises listed in Directories and Classified ads.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.wild.com.au>. The page features a large 'ROCK' logo at the top. Below it, there are two columns of links. The left column includes 'News', 'Photo galleries', 'Guidelines', 'Instruction', 'Training', 'Photo tips', 'Competitions', 'Gear', 'Readers' views', 'Book and video reviews', and 'Reviews'. The right column includes 'News', 'Action photos', 'Survey tips', 'Track & trail', 'Conservation', 'Profiles', 'Gear', and 'Reviews'. A large hand cursor is pointing at the 'Reviews' link in the right column.

www.wild.com.au

ROCK

www.rock.com.au
ISSN 1440-0422
100 pages
100% colour
\$12.95

**GREAT
SUBSCRIPTION
DEAL**

Phone
(03) 9826 8483
or visit
www.rock.com.au
for details.

- TWS recently launched its latest **corporate campaign**—this time **targeting Australian banks**. Resolutions have been submitted to the ANZ, Commonwealth and the National Australia Bank (Westpac is to be contacted shortly). Every



Traditional landowners make known their views about uranium mining on their land, Jabiluka, Northern Territory. Sandy Scheltema

**Mountaineering
New Zealand**

Coldwater Expeditions

World renowned climbing and expedition leaders
International UIAGM qualified guides
NZ - ascents of Mt Cook, Tasman, Aspiring, Tutoko
Instruction - new 10 day Alpine Climbing Course

shareholder of these banks (about two million people) will be asked to vote on whether it is appropriate for their bank to invest in companies that have a negative impact on Australia's old-growth forests.

- The ACF is calling on mining giant **Rio Tinto** to match its recent words with action and begin immediate **rehabilitation works at Jabiluka**. The call follows a commitment by the Chairman of Rio Tinto to plug the mine shaft at the controversial Jabiluka uranium mine in Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory.
- **New South Wales** is to be a State free of 'dedicated native-forest-fed power stations', reports the spring issue of the *Potoroo Review*. Is this a bid for the green vote? Is the word 'dedicated' a neat escape route for the government when it decides to feed some old-growth-forest timber into the furnace? Find out the full story after the NSW State election in March 2003.

Further to the report in Green Pages, *Wild* no 84, a report released in October has confirmed that **logging Melbourne's water catchments** costs the city about 60 000 megalitres of fresh water a year according to the *Age*.

- It is estimated that **only eight per cent of Australia's temperate woodland remains**. The Bunglow Belt South bioregion in NSW contains two of the largest patches of temperate woodland left in



Forest in a Melbourne water catchment. Scheltema

Readers' contributions to this department, including high-resolution digital photos (on CD, not by email) or colour slides, are welcome. Items of less than 200 words are more likely to be published. Send them to *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181 or email wild@wild.com.au

international treks and expeditions
mountaineering instruction wilderness himalaya antarctica new zealand south america
Contact us today for more details...

Guy Cotter
Adventure Consultants Ltd
PO Box 97, Wanaka 9192
New Zealand Tel +64 3 449 8713
Fax +64 3 443 8733
Email: info@adventure.co.nz

**ADVENTURE
CONSULTANTS**
new zealand mountaineering
www.adventure.co.nz

Can't find boots to fit?

MEINDL available in
UK sizes 3½-12 and
also sizes 13-17.



MEINDL

For a brochure and details of your local stockist, please contact:

STAGER SPORT AUSTRALIA
Tel (03) 9529 2954 Fax (03) 9510 0954
Email meindlau@stagersport.com

Food, water, **KTI mini SAT-ALERT**

The essentials when you take a hike,
go bush, set sail, take off!

When you go flying, hiking, boating, skiing or four-wheel driving, be really prepared. Insist on packing the new KTI mini sat-alert RB3 emergency beacon. Once simply activated, it transmits continuously for up to four days, ensuring your signal is received by the emergency services. Designed, manufactured and supported in Australia, the unit is Australia's first microprocessor-controlled, pocket-sized beacon transmitting on both 121.5 and 243 MHz international distress frequencies simultaneously. The new optional strobe light can be seen at night for distances of more than four kilometres. It is buoyant, and waterproof to a depth greater than three metres. Unlike other units, the batteries are fully replaceable. This is not a throw-away. KTI mini sat-alert is designed to the personal EPIRB requirements of AS/NZS 4330:2000 with approvals from the Australian Communications Authority and approved by CASA to the portable E.L.T. requirements of CAR252A.



Weight: 215 grams.
Dimensions 11 x 8 x 3.8 cm.
Warranty: 5 years parts and labour.

**KINETIC TECHNOLOGY
INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD** ABN 10 056 419 806
100-102 Chapel St, East, Vic 3122
• Phone (03) 9563 9566 • Fax (03) 9563 9805
• Email info@kti.com.au • Internet www.kti.com.au
Dealer enquiries welcome.



spend with these guys...



The Conservation Alliance has funded many important environmental projects over the last five years including Environment Victoria's 'Enough is Enough!' campaign. This highly successful project produced a brochure which dramatically increased community awareness of the issue of native-vegetation clearing in Victoria.

Think about supporting the member companies of the Conservation Alliance. Members donate a percentage of their turnover to assist deserving environment groups perform vital work to conserve our natural wild places. When you purchase from these businesses your dollars make cents for the environment.

INOV8 0500 888 242
Macpac www.macpac.co.nz
Mainpeak (08) 9385 2552
One Planet (03) 9372 2555
Outdoor Survival
(03) 9775 1916
Perception Kayaking
(08) 8362 2279
Polaris (02) 4883 6509
REI www.rei.com
Snowgum 1800 811 312
Wild and Rock
(03) 9826 8482
Wilderness Photo
(03) 6223 2537
WL Gore 1800 226 703

The Conservation Alliance is also supported by Outdoor Australia magazine

The Conservation Alliance

Address: PO Box 227 Bangalow NSW 2479 Australia
Phone: (02) 6687 2425
Fax: (02) 6687 2413
Email: ca@consalliance.hydra.org.au
Web: www.conservation-alliance.org.au

THE CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

The Outdoors Industry giving back to the Outdoors

OUTDOOR BOOKS

THE ESSENTIAL LIST

THE MOUNTAIN TRAVELLER'S HANDBOOK

Your Companion from City to Summit \$46.50

GPS MADE EASY

3rd Edition \$38.95

THE BRITISH CANOE UNION CANOE & KAYAK HANDBOOK

3rd Edition \$54.95

THE ANDES

A Trekking Guide \$52.50

EVEREST

Expedition to the Ultimate by Reinhold Messner \$43.95

EVEREST: The Mountaineering History

3rd Edition by Walt Unsworth \$83.50

HIMALAYA ALPINE-STYLE

The most Challenging Routes on the Highest Peaks \$99.95

OVER THE HIMALAYA

\$99.95

CHRIS BONINGTON MOUNTAINEER

30 Years of Climbing on the World's Great Peaks \$58.95

DOUG SCOTT HIMALAYAN CLIMBER

A Lifetime's Quest to the World's Greatest Ranges \$55.00

ROTHER WALKING GUIDES

Fine Valley & Mountain Walks Around Mt Blanc \$28.95

VALAIS EAST 48

Selected day walks (Switzerland) \$28.95

PROVENCE 50

Selected mountain & valley walks \$28.95

ERIC SHIPTON

The Six Mountain Travel Books \$72.50

THE KURT DIEMBINGER OMNIBUS

3 Books In One \$67.50

FRANK SMYTHE

The Six Alpine/Himalayan Climbing Books \$72.50

H.W. TILMAN

The Eight Sailing / Mountain Exploration Books \$74.50

ONE STEP IN THE CLOUDS

Omnibus of mountaineering novels & short stories \$74.50

JOHN MUIR

8 Wilderness Discovery Books \$74.50

JOHN MUIR

His Life, Letters & Other Writings \$74.50

WHITE WATER NEPAL

A rivers guidebook for rafting & kayaking \$64.95

SEA KAYAK NAVIGATION

by Franco Ferrero \$21.95

CANOE GAMES

\$36.50

WHITE WATER SAFETY & RESCUE

\$53.95

THE ART OF FREESTYLE

A book written by paddlers for paddlers \$64.50

THRILL OF THE PADDLE

Extreme Whitewater Canoeing \$58.50

PATH OF THE PADDLE

An illustrated guide to the art of canoeing \$58.50

These books are available from your favourite outdoors store, nearest bookshop, or direct from:



CALL NOW FOR A FREE CATALOGUE

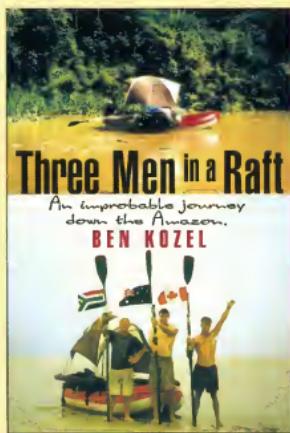
Ph: 02 9695 7055 Fax: 02 9695 7355
Locked Bag 5900, Botany DC NSW 2019

Three Men in a Raft

by Ben Kozel (Pan Australia, 2002, RRP \$30).

Adventures don't come any bigger than this tale (originally told in *Wild* no 80) of a 7000 kilometre journey from the Pacific coast, crossing the continental divide, then rafting the entire length of the Amazon to the Atlantic. Of the trio—Adelaidean Ben Kozel, South African Scott Borthwick and Canadian Colin Angus—only the latter had any significant rafting know-how. Their naivete, their shoestring budget and patchy knowledge of the hazards charges this gripping story with authentic, wide-eyed excitement. The fact that they survived desperate white water, armed attack, assorted debilitating ailments and a grueling 6000 kilometre row down the flatter stretches of the world's mightiest river is as much a testament to their remarkable group spirit as any individual resolve.

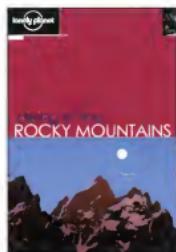
Quentin Chester



Hiking in the Rocky Mountains

by Clem Lindenmayer, Helen Fairbairn & Gareth McCormack (Lonely Planet, 2002, RRP \$33).

Hot on the heels of its 'best-of' guide to walking in North America, *Hiking in the USA*, Lonely Planet has released new titles which make an attempt to cover this vast



region in more detail. The first of these, *Hiking in the Rocky Mountains*, makes a valiant effort to cover comprehensively a range that stretches from the Canadian border to Mexico. With strong emphasis on hikes that take two to four days and numerous day walks, the book follows Lonely Planet's now well-established format and includes excellent maps, some appetite-whetting colour photographs and a wealth of essential information.

Greg Caire

Hiking in the Sierra Nevada

by John Mock & Kimberley O'Neill (Lonely Planet, 2002, \$30.80).

Lonely Planet's latest USA guide, *Hiking in the Sierra Nevada*, continues the company's coverage of North American walking. Like previous titles in the series, the amount of information crammed into this small volume is impressive and, more surprisingly, very easily accessible (through several clear indexes). The standard of mapping remains very high and the selection of walks is more varied than in other titles. The guide provides descriptions of short walks as well as several long-distance tracks that take up to three weeks to complete. A recommended purchase for Australian bushwalkers heading into the Sierra Nevada. CC



Publications for possible review are welcome. Send them with a digital image of the cover for reproduction and RRP to *Wild*, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.

TEVA

NORMAN TRAIL

Sign Yellow

JOHNNIE KERN

FITS IN COMFORTABLY
AROUND GORE CANYON,
COLORADO

WWW.TEVA.COM

THE ORIGINAL SPORT SANDAL.
THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR.



NORMAN

www.teva.com

Stockist details call:

(03) 9427 9422 Australia

(09) 373 1480 New Zealand

Wild Directories are the comprehensive reference point for Australasian outdoors-related businesses. For only \$43 an issue you can have your business listed here and reach a worldwide audience. **Wild Directories— gateway to Australia's outdoors.**

For information on listing your business in this regular feature, please contact **Wild Publications Pty Ltd**, PO Box 415, Port Macquarie Vic 2181. Phone (03) 9826 8482, fax (03) 9826 3787. Email wild@wild.com.au

Suppliers

National Mail-order

Ajpsport
1045 Victoria Rd
West Ryde NSW 2114
Ph (02) 9858 5844

Barkenstock Boutique
Shop 13
Centrevue Arcade
259 Collins St
Melbourne Vic 3000
Ph (03) 9654 5423

Canoes Plus Mail-order
140 Cotham Rd
Kew Vic 3101
Ph (03) 9816 9411

Eastern Mountain Centre
6548 Glenferrie Rd
Hawthorn Vic 3122
Ph (03) 9818 1544

It's Extreme
32 Spencer St
Cairns Qld 4870
Web site www.itsextra.com

Kathmandu Pty Ltd Mail-order
PO Box 1091
Brunswick VIC 3056
Ph (03) 800 334 484

K2 Base Camp
140 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley Qld 4006
Ph (07) 3854 1340

Melbourne Map Centre
PO Box 55
Holmesglen Vic 3148
Web site www.melbmap.com.au

Mountain Equipment
491 Kent St
Sydney NSW 2000
Fax (02) 9264 2645

On Rope
11 Nelson Ave
Padstow NSW 2211
Ph (02) 9709 6299

Paddy Pallin Mail-order
Ph (02) 9525 6829 or
1800 805 398
Web site
www.paddypallin.com.au

Recreational Fabrics
PO Box 338
Ararat Vic 3377
Ph (03) 5356 6309

Snowgum
Reply Paid 1343
PO Box 1343
Clayton South Vic 3169
Ph 1800 811 312

The Safety Network
Wilderness First Aid
Consultants
Ph/fax (02) 6457 2339
Web site
www.safetynetwork.com.au

Torre Mountaincraft Pty Ltd
205 Mogill Rd
Taringa Qld 4068
Ph (07) 3870 2699

2 Penguins Leisure & Sports
Unit 28/13 Berry St
Clyde NSW 2142
Ph (02) 9760 1066

Wild Publications Pty Ltd
PO Box 415
Prahran Vic 3181
Ph (03) 9826 8483

Australian Capital Territory

Belconnen Camping World
Shop 4
Oatley Crt
Belconnen 2617
Ph (02) 6253 2699

Jurkiewicz Adventure Store
47 Wollongong St
Fyshwick 2609
Ph (02) 6280 8888

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
20 Allara St
Canberra 2600
Ph (02) 6257 5926

Mountain Designs
6 Lonsdale St
Braddon 2612
Ph (02) 6247 7488

Paddy Pallin Pty Ltd
11 Lonsdale St
Braddon 2601
Ph (02) 6257 3883

Snowgum
9 Lonsdale St
Braddon 2601
Ph (02) 6257 2250

The Great Outdoors Centre
Canberra
18-24 Townshed St
Philip 2606

Mountain Designs
Unit 2
Cnr King and National Park Sts
Newcastle 2300
Ph (02) 4962 3311

Mountain Designs
499 Kent St
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9267 3822

Mountain Equipment
29 Stewart St
Wollongong 2500
Ph (02) 4229 6748

Canoe and Camping Supplies
265A Victoria Rd
Gladstones 2111
Ph (02) 9817 5590

Coast Camping Centre
27 Lamington Rd
Broadmeadow 2292
Ph (02) 4969 4460

Eastwood Camping Centre
Pty Ltd
3 Trelawny St
Eastwood 2122
Ph (02) 9858 3833

Extreme Equipment
13 Louise Ave
Ingleburn 2565
Ph (02) 9605 9055

Hangdog Climbing Gym
Pty Ltd
130 Auburn St
Wollongong 2500
Ph (02) 4225 8369

Horizon Line Canoes
Ph (02) 4731 8600
Web site:
www.horizonline.com.au

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
Mandarin Centre
Cnr Victor and Albert Sts
Chatswood 2067
Ph (02) 9410 0963

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
38 The Kingsway
Cronulla 2230
Ph (02) 9527 6600

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
Shop 35
Town Hall Arcade
Cnr Kent & Bathurst Sts
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9261 8901

Kinetix Sports Clothing
Web site www.kinetixsports.com.au
Ph (02) 6493 6490

Larry Adler Ski & Outdoor
Web site www.laryadler.com
Ph (02) 9971 8711

Mountain Designs
5/109 Dangar St
Armidale 2350
Ph (02) 6771 5991

Mountain Designs
5/109 Dangar St
Armidale 2350
Ph (02) 4782 3018

Paddy Pallin
Opposite Thredbo turn-off
Jindabyne 2627
Ph (02) 6456 2922
or 1800 623 459

Paddy Pallin
1668 Katoomba St
Katoomba 2780
Ph (02) 4782 4466

Paddy Pallin Pty Ltd
527 Kingsway
Miranda 2228
Ph (02) 9525 6829

Paddy Pallin Pty Ltd
Shop 1
74 Macquarie Rd
Parramatta 2150
Ph (02) 9633 1113

Paddy Pallin Pty Ltd
507 Kent St
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9264 2685

Single Rope Technique
9 Nelson Ave
Padstow 2211
Ph (02) 9796 3455

Summit Gear
84 Bathurst Rd
Katoomba 2780
Ph (02) 4782 3018

It's Extreme
'Stockland' 310 Ross River Rd
Townsville 4814
Ph (07) 4728 2399

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
144 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley 4006
Ph (07) 3252 8054

K2 Base Camp
140 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley 4006
Ph (07) 3854 1340

Mountain Designs
105 Albert St
Brisbane 4000
Ph (07) 3221 6756

Mountain Designs
120 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley 4006
Ph (07) 3218 1866

Paddy Pallin
Adventure Equipment
138 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley 4006
Ph (07) 3252 4408

South Australia

Annapurna Outdoor Shop
210 Rundle St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8223 4633

Flinders Camping
187 Rundle St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8223 1913

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
235 Pine St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8223 6335

Mountain Design
208 Rundle St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8223 0690

Paddy Pallin
228 Rundle St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8232 3155

Scout Outdoor Centre
192 Rundle St
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8223 5544

The Wilderness Shop
Shop 13
Victoria Square Arcade
Adelaide 5000
Ph (08) 8231 0625

Tasmania

Allgoods Pty Ltd
10 Rooke St
Devonport 7310
Ph (03) 6424 7099

Allgoods Pty Ltd
360 Main Rd
Glenorchy 7010
Ph (03) 6273 2933

Allgoods Pty Ltd
71 York St
Launceston 7250
Ph (03) 6311 3644

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
16 Salamanca St
 Hobart 7000
Ph (03) 6224 3027

Mountain Designs
217 Tarleton St
Devonport 7310
Ph (03) 6427 8696

Mountain Designs
11 Elizabeth St
Hobart 7000
Ph (03) 6234 3900

**All Wild Directories are also online. They can be seen at
www.wild.com.au**

Warner Bay Camping World
Unit 3, 276 Macquarie Rd
Warner Bay 2282
Ph (02) 4956 6183

Northern Territory

Adventure Equipment
Darwin
41 Cavendish St
Darwin 0800
Ph (08) 8941 0019

NT General Stores Pty Ltd
42 Cavenagh St
Darwin 0800
Ph (08) 8981 8242

Adventure Camping
Equipment
11 Ross River Rd
Townsville 4812
Ph (07) 4775 6116

Adventure Gear
132 Wickham St
Fortitude Valley 4006
Ph (07) 3252 4744

Globe Trekker Adventure Gear
142 Albert St
Brisbane 4000
Ph (07) 3221 4476

It's Extreme
350 Shute Harbour Rd
Airlie Beach 4802
Ph (07) 4948 2355

It's Extreme
32 Spencer St
Cairns 4870
Ph (07) 4051 0344

It's Extreme
Chevron Renaissance
Mezzanine level, 155 Oxford St
Bondi Junction 2021
Ph (02) 9389 8122

Mountain Designs
2/41 York St
Launceston 7250
Ph (03) 6334 0988

Paddy Pallin
119 Elizabeth St
Hobart 7000
Ph (03) 6231 0777

Paddy Pallin
110 George St
Launceston 7250
Ph (03) 6331 4240

Victoria

Ajays Snow Country Sports
115 Canterbury Rd
Heathmont 3135
Ph (03) 9720 4647

Apapile Mountain Shop
69 Main St
Natumuk 3409
Ph (03) 5387 1529

Birkenstock Boutique
Shop 13
Centreway Arcade
259 Collins St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9654 5423

Bogong
374 Little Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9600 0599

Canoes Plus Pty Ltd
140 Cotham Rd
Kew 3101
Ph (03) 9816 9411

Eastern Mountain Centre
654B Glenferrie Rd
Hawthorn 3122
Ph (03) 9818 1544

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
102–104 Whitehorse Rd
Blackburn 3130
Ph (03) 9878 3188

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
161 Smith St
Fitzroy 3065
Ph (03) 9419 1868

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
Clearance Store
421A Smith St
Fitzroy 3065
Ph (03) 9419 0163

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
904 Nepean Hwy
Hampton East 3189
Ph (03) 9553 1644

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
2nd floor
376 Little Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9642 1942

Melbourne Map Centre
740 Waverley Rd
Chadstone 3148
Ph (03) 9569 5472

Melbourne Map Centre
259 High St
Kew 3101
Ph (03) 9853 3526

Mountain Designs
132 Smith St
Collingwood 3066
Ph (03) 9417 5300

Mountain Designs
(factory outlet)
412 Smith St
Collingwood 3066
Ph (03) 9495 6766

Mountain Designs
9/171–181 Moobool St
Geelong 3220
Ph (03) 5229 6000

Mountain Designs
654A/656 Glenferrie Rd
Hawthorn 3122
Ph (03) 9818 0188

Mountain Designs
373 Little Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9670 3354

Mountain Designs
Shop 1 South Side Central
Traralgon 3844
Ph (03) 5174 4877

Mountain Equipment
98–100 Elizabeth St
Basement, The Block Arcade
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9671 4554

Outdoor World Australia
Shop 261 Main St
Greensborough Plaza
Greensborough 3088
Ph (03) 9434 2272

Outdoor World Australia
95 Upper Heidelberg Rd
Ivanhoe 3079
Ph (03) 9499 9300

Paddy Pallin Pty Ltd
360 Little Bourke St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9670 4845

Paddy Pallin
88 Maroondah Hwy
Ringwood 3134
Ph (03) 9879 1544

Sam Bear Outdoor Gear
225 Russell St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9663 2191

The Wilderness Shop Pty Ltd
969 Whitehorse Rd
Box Hill 3128
Ph (03) 9884 3742

Western Australia

Kathmandu Pty Ltd
884 Hay St
Perth 6000
Ph (08) 9226 0562

MainPeak Pty Ltd
31 Jarrad St
Cottesloe 6011
Ph (08) 9385 2552

MainPeak Pty Ltd
415 Hay St
Subiaco 6008
Ph (08) 9388 9072

Mountain Designs
21A Steamer St
Bunbury 6230
Ph (08) 9791 9888

Mountain Designs
3 Queenstage Centre
William St
Fremantle 6160
Ph (08) 9335 1431

Mountain Designs
862 Hay St
Perth 6000
Ph (08) 9322 4774

Paddy Pallin Pty Ltd
98 Hay St
Perth 6000
Ph (08) 9321 2666

Snowgum
581 Murray St
West Perth 6005
Ph (08) 9321 5259

Adventure activities

New South Wales

Australian School of Mountaineering
166B Katoomba St
Katoomba 2780
Ph (02) 4782 2414

Franklin River Expedition
Rafting
Ph 1800 111 142
Email
brettfermon@yahoo.com.au

Hangdog Climbing Gym
Pty Ltd
130 Auburn St
Wollongong 2500
Ph (02) 4225 8369

High Place Ltd
PO Box 30
Mataua
Nelson
Web site www.highplaces.co.nz

HikingNewZealand.com
Email
info@hikingnewzealand.com

Ph 64 3 328 8171 or

1800 141 242

Mount Aspiring Guides
Web site

www.mountainaspiringsguides.com

Ph 64 3 443 9422

Papua New Guinea

New Guinea Expeditions
Lower Ground Floor
100 Clarence St
Sydney 2000
Ph (02) 9290 2055

CLASSIFIEDS

Wild Classifieds are the comprehensive trading post, whether you're selling old gear or promoting your club or business. Wild Classifieds are the cheap and effective way of getting your message across. For only \$1.70 a word (minimum \$17) prepaid, you will reach a worldwide audience.

Wild Classifieds— gateway to Australia's outdoors.
Simply phone, fax, email or write to tell us the wording of your ad, pay for it with a cheque or credit card (over the phone with a credit card if you wish) and we will take care of the rest. Please contact Wild Publications Pty Ltd, PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181. Phone (03) 9826 8482, fax (03) 9826 3787. Email wild@wild.com.au

Tasmania
Rent A-Cycle Tasmania
36 Thistle St
Launceston South 7249
Ph (03) 8223 5905

Victoria

Bogong Jack Adventures
(Ecotrek)
PO Box 4
Kanganilla SA 5157
Ph (08) 8383 7198

Canoe Kayak Education Australia
140 Cotham Rd
Kew 3101
Ph (03) 9817 5934

Canoeing Victoria
332 Banyule Rd
Viewbank 3084
Ph (03) 9459 4277

Peregrine Adventures Pty Ltd
2nd Floor
258 Lonsdale St
Melbourne 3000
Ph (03) 9663 8611

New Zealand
Adventure Consultants Ltd
PO Box 97
Wanaka
Web site www.adventure.co.nz

Alpine Guides (Aoraki) Ltd
PO Box 20
Mt Cook
Email
mtcook@alpineguides.co.nz

Alpine Recreation Ltd
PO Box 75
Lake Tekapo
Web site
www.alpinerecreation.co.nz

Bushwalkers' Mecca!

Woolly, cold, wet, spacious, self-contained comfort in Maydena, adjacent Styx Valley/South west WHA/Mt Field National Park. Great food on-site at Cockatoo Cafe, Tyenna Valley Lodge (03) 6288 2293 www.tvlodge.com

Grampians, Mt Zero Log Cabin

Cabin, Pct., budget prices. Hollow stone walls, wood fire, Sandanica Wall six minutes; eight minutes to Mt St Taplyon car park/Taplan Wall. (03) 5384 3226 www.grampians.net.au/mtzero

CLIMBING WALLS

Climbing walls. Entre-Prises, the world leader in sport climbing structures, can solve your climbing wall needs regardless of the size of the project. Call Phillip on (02) 9986 9080.

CLUBS

Melbourne Bushwalkers Club. Weekly day walks, base camps and pack carries from easy to hard. Meetings every Wednesday 7 pm. Phone (03) 9818 0362. www.melbournebushwalkers.org.au

Walk with a club. VicWalk is the federation of more than 80 Victorian bushwalking clubs (03) 9455 1876 www.vicnet.com.au/~vicwalk

EDUCATION

Absolutely up-to-date instructor training. Nationally accredited outdoor leader qualifications. Flexible delivery. Distance education. Recognition of prior learning. WorthWild (07) 3833 4330. info@worthwild.com.au

Outdoor education. Do you have or want formal outdoor qualifications? We can provide nationally recognised qualifications in: Abseiling and Vertical Rescue, Camping and Bushwalking, Search and Rescue, Kayaking and Boating or First Aid and Risk Management. All instructors have military or emergency services expertise. PO Box 244, Manly 1655. (02) 9981 4400 www.outdooreducation.com.au

EMPLOYMENT

Outdoor staff and employment. On Track Management Services. www.outdoorjobs.com.au

GEAR

Fleece sold by the metre. Gung Ho Adventure Gear, PO Box 305, Aireys Inlet 3231. Ph (03) 5289 7264.

Kinetix Sports Clothing (manufacturer). Need tried and proven cross-country ski pants? Phone (02) 6493 6490. For outdoor sports clothing, www.kinetixsportsclothing.com.au

Mossie nets for backpackers.

Aussie made. Great for indoors or out. Super light, rugged, non-tearable black net. Keeps off all insects. Compacts into tiny bag. Single \$39.95. Double \$59.95. Our famous 'Ple's Nets for hats also available. Call for free brochure (03) 9576 1026.

Pittarak International.

Exclusive manufacturer and distributor of the genuine Pittarak expedition sea kayaks. Phone/fax (02) 4946 6214. www.pittarak.com.au

Recreational Fabrics. National mail order of ski-wear patterns and high-tech fabrics for the outdoors. We have 65+ fabrics including Polartec, Milar, Gore-Tex and Cordura Enquiries. Phone (03) 5356 6309, fax (03) 5356 6322, PO Box 338, Ararat, Vic 3377.

Seam-sealing, repairs, touch-ups or commercial contract. MW Designs, PO Box 239, Whittlesea, Vic 3757. mwdesigns@bigpond.com 0412 408 048.

Wanted—used gear. Tents; backpacks; sleeping bags; Gore-Tex; footware; tents; climbing gear; XC skis. Any condition. Telephone 0438 823 865. Email wildside@swiftnet.au

PUBLICATIONS

Rock. Very limited copies of the following previously sold-out issues have been unearthed and are available on a strictly first-come, first-served basis from Wild Publications. Nos 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 \$8.99 each. Some copies may be slightly damaged. Phone (03) 9826 8483.

Rock back issues. Only these back issues remain: nos 1 (guidebook sized reproduction with plastic cover), 21 (climbing instruction survey), 22 (Metabourne area guidebook), 23 (Yang Yang guidebook), 24 (Korowai Gorge guidebook), 25 (New Zealand and Alpine grading survey), 26, 27 (Thailand guidebook), 28, 29, 30 (Nowra Update and New Climbs guidebook), 31, 32, 33 (The Rock and New Climbs guidebook), 34 (including guidebook-sized reproduction of Rock no 11), 35, 36, 37 (Wonderland Range guidebook offer), 38 (Mt Geryon & the Acropolis and New Clubs guidebook), 39, 40, 41, 42 (Brett updated New Clubs guidebook), 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 (Getting into Climbing guidebook), 51 and 52. \$8.99 each. Phone (03) 9826 8482.

REAL ESTATE

Pristine 200 acres (90 hectares)

30 minutes Tamworth. Two waterfalls, one with deep swimming hole at top, great views. Creek-side campsites. Rock orchids. Moreton Bay fig ideal bushwalk, abseiling, rockclimbing. 4WD access. Will only sell to caring person/club who will keep area as is. \$108 000. (02) 4965 9508.

REPAIRS

All repairs. We repair packs, sleeping-bags (fixed, refilled and washed), tents and poles, all other gear including patching and tape-sealing Gore-Tex and other rainwear and modifications. Venus Repair Workshop, Suite 36a, 104 Bathurst St, Sydney. (02) 9267 0706, venusk@bigpond.com

BIG John's Retreads. Specialist rock-shoe repairs for over a decade. Resoles \$45/pair. Rand repairs \$15/pair. For the NEW BIG RUBBER RETREAD \$5

extra/pair. Return post—normal \$5/pair. Express \$6/pair, or \$8.75/two pairs. All rubbers pneumatically bonded. Five Tex/C4 Stealth, Ilti La Sportiva, Vibram and Boreal rubbers available. Express mid-week service. Supply contact details. To: Big John's Retreads, PO Box 1122, Westmead, NSW 2145, phone 0407 205 771. Order form and more info: www.bighohn.com.au email bighohn@bighohn.com.au

Remote Equipment Repairs. Specialising in repairs and alterations to packs, tents, sleeping bags (cleaning and drying), Gore-Tex rainwear, fleece and silk clothing, aluminite tent poles, self-inflating camp rests, reprofiling tents and rainwear, zippers. Australia-wide service. Third floor, 373 Little Bourke St, Melbourne. 3000. Phone (03) 9670 2586, fax (03) 9670 7412, email remote@mira.net

All Wild Classifieds are also online. They can be seen at www.wild.com.au

Torre Mountaincraft. Rock shoe resoling. Outdoor gear repairs. Sleeping bag washing, repairs and boosting. Poles, tent packs. 205 Mogill Rd, Tanunda, Qld 4068. Phone (07) 3870 2699. www.torremountaincraft.com.au

TRAVEL, INSTRUCTION

Abselling, Canyoning, Bush Skills Courses, Rock climbing. Mountaineering Corporate Training. Australia's leading adventure operator, owned and run by qualified mountain guides. Abselling, beginners and advanced trips. Absell Leaders' Certificate and Cliff Rescue Course. Canyoning: over 20 different trips, beginners to advanced. Bush Skills: bush craft, navigation, bush food trips. Rock climbing: beginners to advanced courses; private guiding. Mountaineering: Introduction Course, Koscuszko. International guiding available. Contact HIGH 'n WILD, 3/51 Katoomba St, Katoomba, NSW 2780. Phone (02) 4782 6224, fax (02) 4782 6143, www.hign-wild.com.au

Absolute Mongolia! Adventures in the Land of Blue Skies—trekking, biking, mountaineering, camel and horse treks. Beat the rush to this undiscovered land! www.gomongolia.com info@gomongolia.com Phone/fax +976 11 315 655.

Adventure Consultants—world-renowned expedition guiding company operating in the Himalaya, South America, Antarctica, Indonesia and New Zealand since 1991. Cate Corlett and our internationally qualified guides share your spirit of adventure. Professional leadership, small teams and complete logistical support. Phone +61 3 443 8711, fax +61 3 443 8733, email info@adventureconsultants.co.nz www.adventureconsultants.co.nz

Challenging bushwalks. Experience solitude and inspira-

tion in some of the most remote wilderness areas in the Alpine National Park. Local guides share their love and knowledge of the Alps, the flora and fauna. Crippsland High Country Tours, jennyhgt@netpac.net.au

High Altitude Trekking—Aconcagua, Argentina. January/February 2003. Book now to avoid disappointment. Know UK terrain, some scenic beauty and culture gain valuable expedition experience, be part of a fun and achievement focused team. Vertical Limits, 34 Vanguard St, Nelson, New Zealand. Phone +64 3 545 7511. info@verticalimits.com.co www.verticalimits.co.nz

Mad Wombat Guides. Guided bushwalking in Tasmania. Web site: www.madwombatguides.com.au email: info@madwombatguides.com.au

or contact us for a brochure. Mad Wombat Guides, PO Box 798, Uverstone, Tas 7315. Phone (03) 6437 1225.

Mt Aspiring Web site: Geoff Wayatt's guided treks, climbs and courses. Visit our Web site for information, mountain news and photo gallery. www.mountaininreco.nz Email geoff@mountaininreco.co.nz

New Zealand—Mount Aspiring Guides. Featuring David Hildesley, director and chief guide. Various guided classic ascents and a wide variety of mountaineering instruction courses. Rock development school, three to advanced. Advanced Alpine multipitch rock, Mt Awful, Mt Sabre, Twin Streams, Mt Maude, Brun, Wilderness treks. Web: www.MountAspiringGuides.com Phone: 64 3 443 9422. PO Box 9016, Wanaka, New Zealand.

New Zealand mountaineering and ski mountaineering with Southern Alps Guiding www.mtcook.com Personalised service on alpine instruction, guided ascents, Copland Pass, ski mountaineering, UIAGM/NZMGA-certified guides. Contact Charlie Hobbs, phone 64 274 342 277, fax 64 274 342 278, charles@mtcook.co.nz Staying Alive: The only mountaineering training video endorsed by Sir Edmund Hillary—the first man to climb Mt Everest. For orders go to www.mtcook.com

New Zealand mountains with High Places. Specialist in the NZ outdoors and quality walking holidays. NZ Contrasts (24 days): Abel Tasman, West Coast, Aspiring, Mt Cook, Fiordland and Tongariro, plus Milford Track option. PYO ('Plan Your Own') itineraries: advice and bookings for tracks, adventure driving, camping, hire accommodation, flights and transport. Also group trips worldwide including: Latin America, Africa, Iceland, North America and

Himalayas. Brochures and itineraries from HIGH PLACES Ltd, PO Box 30, Magua, Nelson, NZ. Phone +64 3 540 3208, treks@highplaces.co.nz www.highplaces.co.nz

Sea kayak in Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Fidjians/Hinchinbrook Island, Antarctica, Greenland and the high Arctic. Fully catered camping and ship-based adventures. Contact Southern Sea Ventures for our 2003 brochure. Phone (02) 9999 0541, email: info@southernseaventures.com Web site: www.southernseaventures.com

Sea-kayaking adventures worldwide. Worldwide adventure. Australia's number-one day sea kayak tour to South Stradbroke Island. Try kayak sailing, snorkel with subtropical fish, bushwalk to vast sand dunes and deserted beaches. Also offering multiday expeditions throughout Queensland, kayak hire, sales, instructional courses. Based on the Great Barrier Reef. Please phone Liz Craig on 0417 007 876 or visit www.seakayakingtours.com

Ski, climb, bike, sail. Wanaka, NZ's premier activity destination. Package deals include transfers, accommodation and all transport. From \$NZ50 per person per night (maximum six) www.highspots.co.nz Phone 0061 64 3 443 4053.

South Africa: September 2003. Many of the best bushwalks in South Africa have to be booked far in advance, so now is the time to start planning. For more information, contact Will's Walkabouts,

phone: (08) 8985 2134, email: walkabout@ais.net.au Web: www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. An exciting adventure and personal challenge programme for those aged 14–25. Use your outdoors activities as part of your Bronze, Silver or Gold Details: phone (03) 9412 6685.

Three rivers! Three challenges! Three days!

Maximum interest—minimum impact! Raftabou in conjunction with Waterholes Guest House offers an East Gippsland variety adventure package. 15–18 September 2003, 22–25 September 2003. 6–9 October 2003, 13–16 October 2003. www.waterholesguesthouse.com.au Phone: (03) 5157 9330, fax: (03) 5157 9449.

Trek Nepal at affordable prices

with experienced Australian guides (for example, 17 days, January, \$310). Also India, Turkey, South America, roads to Hells or Lynda at Onida Travel, licence AT0030355. ABN 91 003 713 130. Phone (02) 9547 2155 or (02) 9661 8928 (ah).

Wilderness First Aid Consultants. Do you take groups into remote wilderness environments? Do you have adequate first aid skills? We offer two great courses, Australia-wide. Contact us for details: PO Box 917, Jindabyne, NSW 2627. Fax/phone (02) 6457 2339, email info@safetynetwork.com.au

RECYCLED RECREATION

Australia's Leading Adventure Gear Factory Outlet.

Leading Brands

New & Second Hand Gear

Factory Seconds

Demo Stock

Tents

Backpacks

Sleeping Bags

Footwear

Gore-Tex Clothing

Climbing Equipment

Let us sell your gear - quality equipment wanted.

1016 Victoria Road, West Ryde, NSW 2114
Phone (02) 9804 6188 NOW OPEN

Wentworth Building, University of Sydney, NSW 2006

Phone (02) 9566 2544

99 Whitehorse Road, Blackburn, VIC 3130

Phone (03) 9894 4755

110 Smith Street, Collingwood, VIC 3066

Phone (03) 9416 4066

www.recycled-recreation.com.au



*David Noble stocking up
for a siege at Tibeaudos
Hut, Snowy Mountains,
New South Wales.
Roger Lembit*

Wild welcomes slides for this page;
payment is at our standard rate.
Send them to *Wild*,
PO Box 415, Prahran, Vic 3181.

THERM-A-REST

THE ORIGINAL SELF-INFLATING MATTRESS

With a Therm-a-Rest Self Inflating Mattress you'll sleep warmer, as the insulating foam design prevents body heat loss, unlike a conventional air mattress. The Therm-a-Rest is also more convenient, just open the valve and leave it for a few minutes and it inflates - no need to huff and puff! The Therm-a-Rest is made in the USA and built to last, from the best materials, and has a lifetime warranty, as you'd expect from the originator of the Self Inflating Mattress!

LUXURY SERIES

Extra thick for the ultimate in comfort

Use: 4WD and luxury camping, also an ideal guest bed for unexpected visitors at home!

Models: LE, LE 3/4,
LE Camp Rest,
LE MegaRest
& LE Tandem



PERFORMANCE SERIES

The world's lightest & most compact

Use: Any sport where space and weight are critical

Models:
CampLite™,
GuideLite™, &
UltraLite™ (all in Std
and 3/4 lengths)



CLASSIC SERIES

Now Thicker!

Best blend of comfort, durability & warmth

Use: Camping, backpacking, paddling and winter sports.

Models:
MegaRest™,
Camp Rest®,
Standard™ &
Standard™ 3/4



DISCOVERY SERIES

Great entry-level value

Use: Occasional camping & backpacking.

Models:
BaseCamp™,
Explorer™ &
Explorer™ 3/4



Available from all good camping and outdoors stores

Exclusively distributed in Australia by Spelean Pty Ltd.

Ph: 02 9966 9800 Fax: 02 9966 9811
email: thermarest@spelean.com.au
www.thermarest.com



SCARPA®

no place too far...

Legends are not made overnight. They evolve with time and skill, through an unceasing quest for quality, without being afraid to embrace the new.

For SCARPA, the journey has taken 50 years. From a family business nestled in the foothills of the Italian Dolomites, to boots renowned across the globe for quality, reliability, performance and comfort.

Every boot that bears the SCARPA name has been designed using extensive research, followed by rigorous testing in the field. Crafted using the finest leather and materials, they are the product of many years of accumulated knowledge and experience. SCARPA boots are integrated with the very latest technology and techniques.

The intelligent combination of high-quality materials with the function of GORE-TEX® lining prevents moisture from getting inside your boots. Your feet remain permanently dry but can still "breathe". The result is a range of boots designed, shaped and constructed for track walkers and travellers who want to pursue their recreation to the maximum.

Like those who wear them, SCARPA doesn't compromise.

It inspires.



Lite Trek GTX

- GORE-TEX® lining
- Cordura®/suede upper
- Rugged Vibram® rubber sole
- Men's & women's fittings

M W



Peak GTX

- GORE-TEX® lining
- New ultralight sole technology
- Speed lacing system
- Men's & women's fittings

M W



Trek 2 GTX

- GORE-TEX® lining
- Oiled nubuck upper
- New ultralight sole technology
- Men's & women's fittings

M W



Distributed by **Outdoor Agencies Pty Ltd**
Call (02) 9438 2266 for your nearest stockist
sales@outdooragencies.com.au